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CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

AT

HAMPSTEAD, N. I

1849.





Class F44

Book .H2S5

SMITHSONIAN DEPOSIT.









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ADDRESS

DELIVERED JULY 4TH, 1849,

AT

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

OF THE

INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF

4 / 7  
HAMPSTEAD, N. H.

BY ISAAC W. SMITH.

MANCHESTER, N. H.:

AMERICAN OFFICE—JAMES O. ADAMS, PRINTER.  
1849.

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### CORRECTIONS.

p. 36, line 27. After the words spirit land, read as follows:—to find himself left almost alone, to mourn their departure, and to witness the extinguishment of the “objects of their ardent hopes and high endeavor.”

p. 39, line 23. For *reigns*, read *reins*.

p. 41, line 15. Erase *the* before *cannons*.

p. 49, line 39. For *bells*, read *the church bell*.

p. 79, line 2. For *N. Y.*, read *N. J.*

p. 82, line 10. For 40° 53', read 42° 53'.

In the hurry of the moment, while correcting proof sheets, several typographical and orthographical errors, and also errors in punctuation, escaped the eye of the proof reader. It is deemed unnecessary to point them out, as they will be readily discovered by the reader, who can make the necessary corrections with the pen.

cept it, because the shortness of the time for preparation, (less than a month,) would not allow me to make such investigations in the history of our town, as the importance of the occasion required. My other duties would not permit me to devote so much attention to the matter as I wished. The subject of my labors was a new one to me, and I was almost entirely ignorant of the history of our town. I am conscious that the Address is deficient in more than one particular. It affords me the greatest pleasure, if my efforts merit, in the least degree, the flattering language of your communication.

The public, I believe, is considered to have greater claims upon Historical and Centennial Addresses, than it has upon those of a different character. I do not, therefore, feel at liberty to decline furnishing a copy for the press, although the publication is in direct contravention of my own wishes.

With the greatest respect,

Your obedient servant,

ISAAC W. SMITH.

TO MESSRS. AMOS BUCK, and others,

*Committee of Arrangements, &c.*

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

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MR. ISAAC W. SMITH,—DEAR SIR:—The Committee, appointed by the Citizens of Hampstead, to make arrangements for the Centennial Celebration of the Incorporation of the town, would hereby express their high gratification in listening to the very able and valuable Address delivered by you on the occasion, and respectfully request a copy for publication.

AMOS BUCK,  
MOODY H. BRICKETT,  
HENRY PUTNAM,  
NELSON ORDWAY,  
CALEB MOULTON,  
STEPHEN S. SHANNON,

FREDERICK A. PIKE,  
EBENEZER HOYT,  
JACOB E. EASTMAN,  
TRISTRAM LITTLE,  
CHRISTOPHER P. AYER,  
JOSEPH C. BROWN.

Hampstead, August 15th, 1849.

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MANCHESTER, August 20th, 1849.

GENTLEMEN:—I have just received your communication of the 15th inst., requesting, for publication, a copy of the Address delivered upon the 4th of July last.

It was my desire that Frederick Emerson, Esq., of Boston, whom we are happy to claim as a native of Hampstead, and to whom, in the first instance, your invitation was extended, would have found leisure to comply with your request. When he declined, from press of duties, and the invitation was extended to me, I hesitated to accept it, because the shortness of the time for preparation, (less than a month,) would not allow me to make such investigations in the history of our town, as the importance of the occasion required. My other duties would not permit me to devote so much attention to the matter as I wished. The subject of my labors was a new one to me, and I was almost entirely ignorant of the history of our town. I am conscious that the Address is deficient in more than one particular. It affords me the greatest pleasure, if my efforts merit, in the least degree, the flattering language of your communication.

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With the greatest respect,

Your obedient servant,

ISAAC W. SMITH.

TO MESSRS. AMOS BUCK, and others,

*Committee of Arrangements, &c.*



## ADDRESS.

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FELLOW CITIZENS, AND

NATIVES OF HAMPSTEAD :

By your invitation, I am to speak of our honored forefathers ; of men whose lives were the history of our own homes,—whose characters were indissolubly identified with the Revolution of our Independence.

To us this day is *doubly* interesting. We have met to celebrate the anniversary of our Nation's birth ; to pay a passing tribute to those who stood up manfully in the strife for freedom, and nobly gave their lives, to lay deep the foundations of that Government, under which we live in such perfect security of life and liberty.

We have also met to celebrate an event in which we are *peculiarly* interested. A century is just completed, since a handful of hardy settlers were honored with an Act from King George II, incorporating this place with the privileges and conveniences of a municipal government. We have met to recount the early history of our town ; to rescue from oblivion the names of its settlers ; to honor the memory of its most worthy inhabitants ; and to show our love and veneration for the spot “ where our eyes first saw the light,” or to which, from a long residence within its limits, we have become ardently attached.

Unfortunately for posterity, there has been too little care bestowed upon the preservation of those legends in our earlier annals, which give the truest index to the character and habits of our ancestors, and make up a valuable part of their eventful lives. Though removed only two centuries from the earliest scenes in New England history, we are yet ignorant of many of

the most interesting particulars of that period. The eventful story of our forefathers is yet to be written. "The lore of the fireside is becoming obsolete. With the octogenarian few, who still linger among us, will perish the unwritten history of border life in New England."

The period of the Trojan war is called the Heroic Age of Greece. The Iliad of Homer, founded upon the incidents of that war, represents to us, in startling reality, the characteristics of the ancient Grecians; their indomitable spirit and unyielding courage; their superstitious awe of divine interference; their love of country predominating over that of kindred; their eager desire to be led forth to battle; their restless inactivity in time of truce; the martial spirit they infused in youthful breasts;—all those qualities, that made the Grecian's fame reach the most distant shores. The sightless bard has portrayed to us, with matchless skill, the noble impress of the power of the generals of Greece; the wisdom of her statesmen; the eloquence of her orators, surpassing emulation; the sublimity of her poets, more musical and harmonious than any who lived before them, than all who have lived since their time.

England's Heroic Age embraces the darkest and most complex period in her annals. In tracing down events through the Middle Ages, the historian, when near the Age of Chivalry, finds that the poet has woven, out of the doubtful and obscure, dark and mysterious tragedies;—"that he has occupied the vacant field, turned to account the dark hint and half-breathed suspicion, and poured into the unoccupied and too credulous ear his thrilling and attractive tale;—that the genius of Shakspeare seized upon the history of this era as a vacant possession, and peopled it with beings, who had indeed historic names, but whose attributed actions lack the stamp of authenticity."

But the *Heroic Age of New England*, the eventful story of the Puritans, has far more interesting connections. Looking back through a period of little more than two centuries, we turn to Old England's shores, to the scenes in which they were "burning and shining lights," to the days of their long persecutions, to their noble confessions of faith before the world, and "sealed

with their blood." At Delfthaven we see them kneel on the sea-shore ; commend themselves with fervent prayer to the blessing and protection of Heaven ; part forever from friends, and home, and native land ; embark upon the almost unknown seas, and uncomplainingly encounter the dangers of the deep, to reach a place where they may in security worship the living God. And when their lone vessel reaches the bleak and barren sands of Cape Cod,—

"On the deck then the Pilgrims together kneel down,  
And lift their hands to the source of each blessing,  
Who supports by his smile, or can blast with his frown,  
To Him their returns of thanksgiving addressing.  
His arm through the ocean has led to the shore,  
Where their perils are ended, their wanderings are o'er."

We admire the enthusiasm which impelled them to emigrate ; the firm, unshaken spirit with which they met the horrors of Indian warfare, endured the extreme privations of the comfortable homes they had left behind, the sufferings and death from disease and a cold winter, "lamenting that they did not live to see the rising glories of the faithful." The memory of these men lives enshrined in our hearts and enthroned upon our affections. Their energy and incorruptible integrity prepared the way for the complete enjoyment of those blessings which New England people so preëminently possess. Amidst the stirring excitement of the present day, simple legends of the past have become, many of them, irretrievably lost. No poet has yet sung of the heroism of the Pilgrim Fathers. In coming ages, some Homer may arise, who shall describe in immortal verse, the Heroic Age of the New World ; who shall sing of the May Flower and of Plymouth Rock ; of Heroes more noble than Achilles or the son of Priam ; of moral conflicts more sublime, of defeats more signal than the battle between Greek and Trojan, than the sight of the ruins of smouldering Ilium ; and of eloquence more sublime than the appeals of Trojan Chiefs, or the thrilling harangues of Grecian Leaders ; who shall sing of a submission to the decrees, and of an obedience of the commands, of the living and true God, more humble and yet more beautiful, than the blinding superstitions and imposing ceremonies and sacrifices of the heathen deities.



An affectionate and respectful remembrance of our worthy ancestors, is a debt of gratitude which we can pay in no other way, so appropriately, as by the exercises of to-day.

If tradition speaks truly, the first inhabitants of this town were two Indians, who lived near Angly Pond. An Indian is also said to have lived near the large oak\* in this neighborhood. No further information of the history of these men can be found. But these rumors are undoubtedly correct; for the fine facilities for fishing, which the ponds in this town then offered, and the fine hunting grounds the forests then presented, must have rendered it a favorite resort of the Red Man.

Our imaginations carry us back to the time, when this land was inhabited by the Indian only, and to scenes witnessed or enacted by him alone, in centuries gone by. A wild and roving people once lived in these places, once performed their sacred rites in these beautiful groves, celebrated their festive days with strange ceremonies, and payed tribute to the memory of their dead, with strange lamentations. Unaccustomed to till the soil, and independent of the cares of life, they roved in careless indolence through these fields, bathed in these waters, and threaded the mazes of these forests, in uninterrupted pleasure.

To use the language of another,†—"Here, long ago, and perhaps on the very spot where we are assembled, has been held the war dance around their council fires, while the surrounding hills echoed their loud whoop; here with impassioned words and startling figures have they made the woods resound with their rude but irresistible eloquence, which, more potent than the peal of the 'stirring drum,' and the shrill fife, aroused them to deeds of daring and of valor.

"And when in times of peace, softer passions swayed their hearts, beneath these forest pines, Indian youth have wooed their mates, and with the stars to witness and bless their vows, have pledged perpetual love and constancy.

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\* This tree stands in front of the dwelling house of Mr. Benjamin Sawyer, and is the same to which allusion is made by Rev. Henry True, in his letter published in the Appendix. It measures about 25 feet in circumference. It is hollow, and formerly, by means of a hole near the ground, was a favorite hiding place for the boys in the neighborhood. This aperture has now grown over.

† Rev. Stephen T. Allen. Taken from his address delivered at the Centennial Celebration of the town of Merrimack, April 3, 1846.



"But these scenes are all blotted out. The history of centuries is a blank. Oh! could we roll back the oblivious tide and expose to view what other days have witnessed! could we but catch the sound of some soul-stirring song, or the echo of some strain of their simple and glowing eloquence! But it cannot be. Nor song, nor speech can be gathered up. Like the

'flower that's born to blush unseen,  
And waste its sweetness on the desert air,'

they have died in the breeze that wafted them away."

There is no record to show the exact time when Hampstead was settled. The earliest record, of the town commence in January, 1749, with the first meeting under the charter. According to tradition, the first settlement was made in 1728. The venerable man, who ministered to this people so many years, and whose recent death we have so much reason to lament, did more than any one else to preserve the most interesting events in our history. In his "Sketch of Hampstead,"\* published in 1835, he remarks, "that three white families, of the name of Ford, Heath and Emerson, moved into the place about the year 1728. Mr. Emerson came from Haverhill, and settled near a brook in the south part of the town. Some of his posterity remain here still, and are among the most respectable inhabitants."

No additional light has been discovered from a search among the records and papers of the town. Mr. Kelly was always remarkably exact in his statements, and took a commendable degree of pride in collecting such interesting portions of history. I have not been able to learn the place where Mr. Emerson, nor where the other two families, settled. But from the fact, that until recently, families of the name of Heath have lived in the east part of the town, and that that part is known to have been early settled, we may conclude that they located in that vicinity.

But another account, from some of our townsmen, states that the first house in Hampstead was built by Mr. Edmund, or Peter Morse, who moved from Newbury, Ms., and was the grand-

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\* It is proper here to say, that I am indebted to his "Sketch" for many of the facts here related; also to the town records. Most of the remaining facts were communicated to me by the older inhabitants of the town.

father of Mr.<sup>6</sup> Joseph Morse, and of Samuel Morse, Esq., recently deceased. The house stood in the pasture, about half a mile north-east of the house of Dr. Samuel Morse. A part of the farm is still owned by his descendants. The same account also states that Lieut. Peter Morse was a son of this Mr. Morse, and the first white male person born in town; and that his daughter Judith was the first white female born in Hampstead. The cellar where this house stood is still to be seen. It is divided into two parts, by the foundation of a large chimney. Four pines, from eight to twelve inches in diameter, now stand in the cellar. Near by these ruins is the first burial place of our fathers. There are over a hundred graves, and not a single monument to tell us the names of those who sleep beneath the sod!

Near the eastern shore of this pond\* are found the ruins of the early settlement of the town. It was once the most populous part, the centre of importance. But nothing remains, save the few relics which time has spared. The roughly stoned cellars, the half-filled wells, and the beaten paths to favorite springs, mark the spot where our hardy townsmen first began to clear the land of its heavy growth of wood and timber, erected their rude log houses, and began to undergo the privations of a life in a new settlement.

In this age of security and luxury, we are apt to underrate the hardships which the first settlers of New England had to encounter. Our soil is a stubborn one, and yields a good return only to the most persevering toil. To live in those days, when all a family could get was what it alone could raise from the earth, or fashion with its hands; when neighbors were few and far scattered, and each little household was dependent upon itself almost alone, for help and protection; when the work of years was liable to be destroyed in a single night; when the ruthless savage was continually prowling about each settlement, and in an unguarded moment murdering or carrying into hopeless captivity, women and children; when no farmer felt secure at work in his field, unless armed with his gun; and

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\*The exercises of this celebration were held in the "Davis Grove," situated on the western shore of the "Wash Pond," and extending to the water's edge. The Grove is distant from the ruins of the first settlement, about half a mile, in a direct line.

when even the house of God was the scene of constant alarm from the actual or much dreaded attack of the Indian—to live in those days, and to contend with such difficulties, is not the ordinary lot of man.

In reviewing the history of our town, we would gladly turn to the days of our first settlement, and fix on some bright spot of the past. We would picture to ourselves scenes of rural contentment and quiet: the humble log house, half concealed from view by tall maples and graceful elms, alike protected from the heat of summer and shut in from the cold storms of winter; the cheerful fireside; the honest-minded farmer and his simple-hearted dame, surrounded by a numerous family of stalwart young men and coy maidens, training to become efficient actors in the great struggle for American Independence. We follow in imagination, the hunter in the excitement of the chase, or in his perilous adventures in extermination of the wild beasts of the forest; we hear the happy voice of the farmer toiling in his field, the quick blows of the woodman's axe, the loud crash of the falling tree, or the clear notes of the laughing, merry voices of children ringing through the woods, echoing across the calm surface of this beautiful pond, and dying away in the thick shade of the trees that covered its opposite shores.

These scenes, we would gladly believe, constituted the routine of their lives. But the reality differs widely from this ideal picture of rural quietness. Toil, severe and unremitting, left them but little leisure to enjoy the more quiet pleasures of modern life. It was their lot to endure the hardships of pioneers in the wilderness. How they fared, what difficulties they encountered, what efforts they made for the promotion of the moral and benevolent institutions, which are so peculiar to New England, history tells us not. The names of the great only are enrolled upon the books of fame. The historian records the name of the victorious warrior, the illustrious statesman, the eloquent orator, and the accomplished scholar. But the man whose lot it is to live and die upon the spot of his birth, who lives in ignorance of the ways of the world, honestly performs his part in the drama of life, and “bears love to God and good will to man,”—dies lamented in the circle of immediate friends.

in which he moved ; but when they in turn quit all here below, *his memory* perishes too.

With the ruins of the first settlement of this town, fast crumbling to decay, will perish every memento of our earliest history. How forcibly are we reminded of the perishableness of earthly things ! A century and a quarter ago, this town was a wilderness, uninhabited by the white man, and only the occasional resort of the Indian. To-day it is the abode of civilization, of happiness, of peace and plenty. But its first settlers—where are they ? They sleep in the dust ; their very names, with hardly an exception, are lost, and no record remains of their eventful lives. With a sense of loneliness we ask, “ what is the history of man ” ? and henceforth there comes the response, “ born—living—dead.”

“ The battle of life is brief—  
The alarm—the struggle—the relief—  
Then sleep we side by side.”

There is nothing upon the records of the town or elsewhere, that I have been able to discover, which reveals to us the history of our earliest ancestors. But from the fact that in twenty years from the time of its first settlement, it had become of sufficient importance to be honored with an act of incorporation, we may infer that, at least, an ordinary degree of success attended the settlement.\* No untoward event, probably, interrupted its growth, so that in 1748 the people petitioned the Royal Governor for a town charter, which was granted on the 19th of January, 1749. This instrument appears to have been regarded by our ancestors with a good degree of veneration. It was copied into the first book of Records, and to those at all curious in relics of antiquity, is a matter of interest.

From the “ Historical Sketch,” by Mr. Kelly, we find that Hampstead is made up of two segments, one from the town of Amesbury, and the other from the town of Haverhill ; both being cut off from those towns, by running the State line in

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\*It was a far more difficult thing at that time to plant a small Colony, and cause it to flourish, than it is at the present day, to build up a large city, or cause thriving villages to spring up, by enchantment almost, out of the midst of a thriving and industrious people. The largest city in this State, 11 years ago, contained less than a thousand inhabitants ; in the compact part of it, where is now found a thriving population of 14000 souls, there then stood but 3 houses and dwelt about a score of people. At the present day this wonderful increase is not uncommon. A century ago it required time to lay the foundation of a permanent settlement.

1741, and were thereby included within the Province of New Hampshire. It was called, originally, Timber Lane, "on account of its being an elevated, hard tract of land, and from the abundance of timber of the most valuable kinds, which rendered it a place of considerable resort." It was named Hampstead, after a pleasant village of that name in the County of Middlesex, in England, five miles north of London. The town was so named by Governor Wentworth. The Island in this town was reserved by him for his farm. This Island must formerly have been a place of considerable note. All accounts agree in saying that the Governor reserved it for his own use. No such reservation appears in the Charter. It would, perhaps, be more proper to say that he owned the Island in his own right, in the same way that any private individual owned his own farm. The buildings erected upon the Island, must, in their day, have been considered of a superior kind. One of the houses was evidently intended for the occasional residence of the Governor, and the other, according to the English custom, was of a poorer kind, and devoted to the use of his domestics. Notwithstanding the buildings have been suffered to go to decay, there are yet enough traces of improvement remaining, to render the spot one of the most beautiful places in the State. It was formerly called "Governor's Island." As it is wanting in a name at this time, a return to the old name would be very appropriate.

In granting the Charter, the King reserved to himself, his "heirs and successors, forever, all white pine trees, growing and being, or that shall grow and be, on the said tract of land, fit for the use of his Royal Navy." Such a reservation was usual at that time ; but it has availed the poor King and his successors but little. Since we threw off the yoke of British allegiance, his successors have been forced to look elsewhere for materials for the "Royal Navy," and England, twice humbled in her haughty pride, has found a powerful rival on the shores of America.

In accordance with the provisions of the Charter, the first public meeting was warned to assemble for the purpose of organizing under it, by Daniel Little, Esq. The warrant is one of which we may, as townsmen, well be proud. It is so indicative



of the character of our New England ancestors, that I cannot forbear copying it.

"These are to warn ye free holders and other inhabitants of ye town of Hampstead, qualified to vote in ye choice of Town Officers, to meet at ye New Meeting House in Hampstead, on ye first Wednesday of February next at 10 of ye clock in ye forenoon for ye following particulars, viz :

1st. To choose town officers as ye law direct.

2d. To see what ye said Town will do in order to make ye Meeting House more comfortable for ye public worship of God, and also to choose a Committee to take care of ye same.

3dly. To consider and act what shall be thought best about ye place proposed for six pews in ye new tier in ye front of said Meeting House.

4thly. To choose a Committee to provide a Minister to preach among us in order for settling amongst us, or what ye town may think most proper.

Dated at Hampstead, Jan'y 24, 1749.

DANIEL LITTLE, *Justice of the Peace.*"

The people were notified to assemble in the *New Meeting House*. This is the same building which is now used for a town-house, and occasionally for religious services. It cannot be determined, certainly, when it was built. From the best information, we are led to believe that it was raised about the year 1745. It was probably built at the town's expense, as they seem by the records to have exercised exclusive control over it, in selling the pews, making repairs, and taking care of it.

The building, that first served them for a place of worship, must have been small, and of that kind universally erected by the Puritans, when they first settled in New England. It was located upon the spot where "Spiggot Hall," (recently so named,) is now situated. Nothing remains to tell us when it was erected, nor how long it was used. It was probably built of hewn logs, in the simplest manner, without porch or ornament, and without any pretensions to beauty or finish, after the mode of architecture then prevailing in New England. Rough boards or logs constituted the pews, and the pulpit was scarcely any thing better. A gallery for the choir was unheard of, or at least unthought of, being considered a dangerous innovation upon Puritan simplicity. As was their custom in those times, the hymn was "deaconed out," a line at a time, (for hymn books were a luxury which they could ill afford,) and all the congregation, who chose, joined in the singing; a mode of praising God, often more in accordance

with the real feelings of the heart, than the elegant, finished, but too frequently unmeaning way, in which the *select* choirs of the present day, perform this delightful duty.

The first Meeting House must have been extremely uncomfortable in the winter season; its walls were unplastered, and fires were out of the question, stoves being a thing unheard of, in such a place. The building too, was erected when the population was small in numbers, and would not accommodate the increasing wants of the people.

From these considerations, they determined to erect a new and more commodious place of worship. The new house, which they constructed, reflects great credit upon them, for what must then have been considered an elegant and beautiful structure. It was built of durable materials, and for over a century has withstood the ravages of time. In convenience of arrangement, in the simplicity of its model, and in the beauty of its proportions, it stands a monument of Puritan skill and energy, and of Puritan faith.

The house was not put in its present shape, till near the close of the eighteenth century, when the porch and steeple were added, and the house thoroughly repaired. Even the windows were not all glazed, nor the doors all hung, till some years after the frame was covered; and it was many years before its walls were plastered. The limited means of our fathers would not permit them to finish it, as fast as they desired, or as convenience demanded.

The erection of this house was considered by them indispensable. It was no mercenary motive that led our fathers to leave "Old England's" shores, encounter the perils of the deep, and endure the privations of a life in the wilderness. It must have been a strong and enduring love for religion, and a perfect faith in God, that induced our Puritan mothers to sever the ties of kindred and nation, to leave parents and friends—all behind,—and find in the wilds and severe climate of New England, a place to worship God in security, "according to the dictates of their own consciences;" to find a refuge from persecution, and an asylum for the despised Pilgrim. It was a strong and abiding love in God, that could induce our fathers and mothers to

leave the luxuries and pleasures of *home*—that word, the mention of which, calls up in our memories a thousand pleasing associations,—and to settle in lands which would be continually harrassed by Indian warfare, and attended with such “sure destruction of property, and life, and hope.” “There was no face which did not gather paleness, and no heart which did not bleed at every pore. Every thing in life was held and enjoyed in fearful uncertainty. The fond mother, with her infant in her arms, held him in perpetual fear. She felt that inward terror, that beating and throbbing of nature within the heart, which she only can know, who is nursing her infant for slaughter.”—Hearts, that could put their trust in the Lord, and brave dangers like these, more terrible, because uncertain, and attended with unheard of barbarity, must have been imbued with a perfect love of God. It no longer, then, excites our wonder, that every infant settlement had its sanctuary, that New England has become world renowned for its religion, its learning, and its enterprise. Its ten thousand Church spires, reaching upwards towards Heaven, point with unerring accuracy, to the cause of its superiority in morality and prosperity.

Happily our own town never was the scene of Indian massacre and cruelty. But its vicinity to other places, which, in an unsuspecting moment, became scenes of bloodshed, must have kept them in perpetual suspense. “Husbands and wives, parents and children, nightly retired to rest in safety, sunk together into silence, doubting ever to rise again.”

The same people came to settle this town, and possessed the same undying love for God, and the same unyielding spirit to persecution. The strong love for the sanctuary and sanctuary privileges, which they implanted in our breasts, is the richest legacy they could have bequeathed us. It outshines in splendor and in richness, “the wealth of Ormus and of Ind.” It is no mean heritage to be the descendants of such people. Well may we quote with pride the first warrant for the meeting of the free-holders, when every line but one was penned, to take measures for the enjoyment of increased privileges in the worship of God, and to provide a permanent preacher of His word.

The erection of their new Meeting House was an important



era in their history. It is unfortunate that there is no authentic record of it extant. Allow me to quote the language used upon an occasion similar to this.\*

“It was apparent that it was in their hearts to build a house unto the Lord. At length the work went on. The forest, dense and heavy, that then entirely surrounded the destined location, resounded with the woodman’s axe. The oaks hard by,—venerable with the growth of centuries,—were felled, and fitted for their place;” at length, “the day, so long an object of pious desire on the part of some, and of wakeful interest among all, had arrived. At an early hour in the morning, from the remotest borders of the town, the men are gathering. All are prompt, and ready to act their several parts in a scene, than which none, perhaps, more joyous had ever before occurred in the history of the town. None of the actors survive, to recount what transpired on that memorable day. We know, however, that the raising of a Meeting House was an event of no ordinary interest. But in these days of progress and rapid execution, when villages rise up like mushrooms, and Meeting Houses, comfortably provided with all fixtures, can be furnished at short notice, we can but imperfectly imagine the excitement that thrilled the infant settlement, on the occasion in question.

“The morning of the day, we may well suppose, found their domestic matters done up in season; and we seem to see them setting off,—the active and the able-bodied, with their implements in hand,—the housewives neatly attired in their checkered aprons, on foot or on pillion,—the beardless, vaunting young men and coy maidens, in Sunday dress,—all wending their way to the central point of interest, where, doubtless, in due time were assembled nearly all of the three hundred population in town.

“What deeds of strength and agility, in handling beams and rafters,—what skill in tilting and catching pins,—what hairbreadth escapes,—what presumptuous adventures, in walking the giddy ridge-pole,—what notes of alarm from prudent mothers and careful wives,—it is not for us to report. Nor would it be of interest, at this late period, to speak of the closing

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\* Rev. Mr. Allen.

scenes of that day. It is enough to remark, that, as after the consecration of the Temple, Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, and on the eighth day sent the people away, and they came to their tents joyfully and glad of heart ;” so no doubt abundant provision had been made “ for all those creature comforts *once*,—but *not now*,—deemed indispensable at a raising.

“The massive frame thus went up, without any accident to mar the happiness of the occasion ; and there it has stood,” more than “ a century, defying the fierce blasts of winter, and the progress of decay,—and seems even now capable, with proper care, of lasting a century more. Though it has been taken from sacred, and appropriated to secular uses,—though it stands solitary and alone, and seems without and within, like one forsaken,—yet, who can pass by it,” “ without emotion ? ” It is of New England Architecture. “ It is a Puritan structure.” \* \* \* “ Centuries to come will approve and applaud the New England men, who worshipped in square pews, and the New England Ministers, who preached with a subduing power from high pulpits.”

The first town meeting was held on the 7th day of February, 1749.\* Daniel Little was chosen Moderator, and had the honor of holding the first elective office in town. Peter Eastman was elected Town Clerk, to which office he was annually elected, with but two exceptions, till 1776. Nathaniel Heath was chosen Constable, but not wishing to serve, hired Ebenezer Gile to take his place, and the town accepted the substitute. A board of five Selectmen was chosen, either because it was the custom to choose that number, or because they thought five would be more prompt to serve the town well, than three. The board consisted of John Johnson, Lieut. Peter Morse, George Little, Jacob Bayley, and Stephen Johnson. The other offices were all filled, no doubt, by good men. Joseph Stevens and John Beard were elected Hogreeves. If the custom then prevailed, as at the present time, of choosing the newly married to that office, we are led to infer that Joseph Stevens and John Beard had recently worshipped at the altar of Hymen. It is certainly a custom

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\* This was in Old Style. According to our chronology, it would be eleven days later. This remark will also apply to the date of our town charter.

of long standing. The office was not then, as now, a nominal one ; its duties were often onerous. Perhaps the custom owes its origin to a playful desire upon the part of the community at large, to render this naturally embarrassing period of the newly wedded couple's life, more embarrassing, by thus drawing to the happy groom, the attention of the whole town. There may be something peculiar in matrimony itself, that renders him a suitable person to have charge of the swine running at large, and makes him emphatically "master of the ring." Or, by *ringing* the nose of the unfortunate pig, he may see a foreboding of what is to be his own fate, unless he shall float down the stream of wedded life, more safely than sometimes happens. The question will, probably, never be settled upon strictly political principles.

Some action was taken at this meeting for securing a settled Minister. But from a defect in the records, it does not appear what action was had. From the fact that a Minister was settled three years afterwards, in 1752, it is probable that this meeting prepared the way for future success, though its action, at that time, did not result in anything definite.

At the Annual Meeting in 1750, among other things, it was voted "to hire a school master for six months in ye summer season, to teach ye children, to read and write." We may point to this vote, with great pleasure. That a town, which had been settled only twenty-one years, and had, probably, less than three hundred inhabitants, should be at the expense of sustaining a school half the year, was an act, which forms one of the brightest spots in our history. The next distinguishing feature, in the policy adopted by our fathers, to the noble example they set in the worship of God, is our system of Common Schools.

The men, who settled New England, entertained correct ideas of true glory. They had been schooled in adversity, and had learned to estimate truly human greatness and human power.— They knew that "knowledge is power." In the ignorance and superstition that shrouded the Old World in error, shut out the glad light of liberty, and fastened upon Europe the badges of the most despotic governments, they saw the destiny that awaited them in their new homes, unless they should lay deep the foundations of knowledge. They knew that freedom, without knowledge,

was but another name for slavery. The arrogant assumptions of the Papal authority, the bitter, unrelenting cruelty of the Dark Ages, their own persecutions by their own fire-sides, served to make them strive more zealously, to establish what they conceived to be the truth. Our fathers saw the degradation of the masses of the Old World, and resolved that no such heritage should be the lot of their children. At the same time they erected their own dwellings, they also erected the school house.

When they established the Common School system, they performed an act, whose influence will reach down through all time. Had it not been for the *intelligence* of the men of 1776, America had never been free. Had it not been for Common Schools, our enterprise would not whiten every sea with the sails of our ships ; our commerce would not extend to the most distant ports ; our fabrics would not compete so successfully with those of more favored climes ; our glorious Union itself would not have stood so long, unshaken by the dangers, which threaten it without and within.

Cæsar, the hero of three hundred battles, the subjugator of eight hundred cities, the conqueror of three millions of people, one million of whom he slew in battle, has, indeed, rendered his name immortal. But long after the influence of his deeds shall have ceased to be felt, when his name shall be remembered only to be associated with scenes of cruelty, shall the humble, unpretending acts of the Pilgrims move the mighty masses that shall come after them.

The greatest foe to tyranny is knowledge. Millions, yet unborn, will unite to bless the men, " who broke the magic spell of ignorance and of error."

We do not feel the full weight of the debt of gratitude, which we owe to the memory of our fathers. Not till we contrast our fortune with that of the millions of Europe, who are now struggling to burst the bonds that have so long held them in ignorance, and in humiliating dependence upon the nobility, can we feel the superiority of our condition.

How different is the condition of Common Schools at the present day, from what it was one hundred years ago ! Then, the town voted to hire a teacher for six months, to teach only



reading and writing. So limited a course of education at this day, would hardly be thought a very great accomplishment. But their effort for the education of the rising generation will seem a noble one, when we consider, that then almost the whole world was buried in ignorance ; that only here and there did the bright rays of knowledge illumine the face of the earth ; that then people considered the possession of knowledge beyond their reach, and forbore to strive after it ; that one century ago, the world was groping in the dark,—all knowledge of the truth effectually shut out from the minds of the people, except when imparted through the medium of men, whose interest it was to keep the masses in ignorance. Even in 1750, our town would compare favorably with the condition of many parts of our country at the present time. In our southern and western States, there is many an individual, who can neither read nor write. But an hundred years ago, it was not a common thing to find a New Englander who could not do both.

There are many yet living, who can count their whole term of “schooling” by weeks ; who traveled miles to school, and thought themselves fortunate to enjoy such privileges. The school houses of that time were wanting in almost every convenience, and possessed none of the luxuries of modern times. Though often hardly worthy the name of a school house, often containing only a single room, cold and uncomfortable, amid the miniature snow banks, which crept stealthily in between the crevices of the hewn logs, and through the cheerless days of winter, were educated as brave men and noble hearts as ever lived.

The Testament was then the only reading and spelling book known ; and a copy-book consisted of a few leaves of the roughest paper. To this limited list of studies, Arithmetic was soon added. At first no text-book was used. Such examples as would come up in the ordinary course of a man’s business, were given out by the teacher, and the four fundamental rules taught orally. In time, Pike’s Arithmetic made its appearance, grew into general favor, and for a long time remained in exclusive use. But that, like every thing else, must give place to improvement. Then followed Welch’s, Adams’s Old, and New, Colburn’s, and

lastly, to the honor of our town, the analytical, thorough and concise treatise, by one of Hampstead's most distinguished sons.\* The rapidity with which it grew into general favor, the extensive adoption of it in most of our schools, and the success with which it maintained its favor with the public in face of the most persevering competition, is proof, stronger than words, of its real merits.

There is not time to notice all the improvements introduced into our schools. What distrust accompanied the introduction of new studies, what wry faces were made over the unintelligible pages of Murray, what bitter tears were shed over hard, half-learned tasks, and what fear of blistered hands or smarting limbs, —we leave for other pens on different occasions.

It is proper, however, to allude to the important changes that have taken place in reading books. The New Testament was, at first, the only reading book used. But from the sacredness of the book, and on account of its being ill adapted to the capacities of different ages, it was superseded by other books. The American Preceptor and, for a long time also, the English Reader, were favorite text-books. In the improvements of the age, these books gave way to a series well adapted to the different ages and capacities of youth, by another distinguished son of Hampstead.† For several years the town honored him by the exclusive adoption of his books. But the love for new things is irresistible ; and Emerson's Reading Books have been partially laid aside, to make room for other candidates for public favor. The same author has furnished to the world a simple, neat, well arranged and correct spelling-book,‡ which has been exclusively adopted in the schools in this town for nearly twenty years. The hundreds of editions that have been published, its almost universal adoption in schools, and the long time it has been in use, are sure guaranties of its worth. The rival, that can supplant it, must present the strongest claims of excellence.

The man who publishes a book for Common School use, wields a mighty influence. The character of his book operates upon

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\* The North American Arithmetic, in three parts, by Frederick Emerson, Instructor in Boston.

† Benjamin D. Emerson, Esq., Roxbury, Mass.

‡ Emerson's National Spelling Book.

the mind when it is most susceptible of bias. It is the duty of the people, then, to look into the character of the instruments, which aid in forming the most lasting impressions the youthful mind ever receives.

I believe no other town has the honor of being the birth-place of men, whose school books have been so universally approved and adopted. This fact, together with the esteem with which we have always regarded them, must be my apology for alluding to what, at first sight, might not seem strictly appropriate to the occasion.

Our fathers had not the advantages which we enjoy. The town, in 1750, contained but one district, and according to the terms of the vote, the school was to be sustained only in the summer season. Its advantages could not, therefore, have been extensive. The great distance must have excluded most of the smaller children, and the duties of the farm and of the dairy, in the busiest season of the year, must have deprived many of the elder children from attending. The first attempts in other parts of New England, to establish schools, were attended with similar inconveniences, and produced only the same limited advantages. But from this small germ, has grown up around us our strongest bulwark of defence. It is the cause of our unexampled prosperity. In vain will bigotry or infidelity attempt to undermine our security, while our system of Common Schools is cherished as one of the most efficient aids to religion, and national prosperity. The foundation of all prosperity is in an enlightened community. An ignorant people, though inhabiting the most favored land on earth, soon sinks into insignificance. Our extended sea-coast invites the merchant to traverse the ocean for trade with every clime. Our fertile valleys have given employment to the agriculturalist. Our numerous water-falls have attracted the enterprising manufacturer. "Cities spring up like exhalations, under the magic touch of his wand, and the hum of machinery arises out of the midst of a thrifty, industrious and happy people." The majestic plains and rivers of the West have collected adventurers from every part of the world. Our country exhibits to other nations the unexampled rise and prosperity of a free, self-governed, and *educated* people. The Common

School system has been one of the most effective means in producing these magic changes. Its benefits and its inevitable results are arguments which come directly home to the hearts and understandings of the great body of the people. To the foresight and wisdom of the Pilgrims, are we indebted for this rich legacy. With what care and anxiety, then, should we cherish it, so that we may hand it down to those who shall come after us, not only untarnished, but in our hands made the instrument of increased good.

Time forbids indulging in any further reflections, to which so fruitful a subject invites our attention. The remaining events in our town's history must be rapidly run over.

At this time there appears to have been some trouble concerning the Parsonage lands. The Proprietors of Haverhill granted to the inhabitants of Timber Lane, a tract of land "for ye use of ye first minister who should settle here." At this meeting in 1750, it was voted "that Esq. Little, Capt. Copps and John Webster should be a committee to agree with Thos. Haynes to go off ye Parsonage land, if they can do it on reasonable terms." This committee was unsuccessful in effecting a settlement with Mr. Haynes. It is not easy to ascertain wherein the difficulty consisted. The dispute was about the title. At different meetings the town choose committees to prosecute the trespassers, or to settle with them, or to refer the matter. So many votes were passed and reconsidered, that it is not possible to ascertain how the matter was finally adjusted. The last vote upon the town records, is to give it to any one to hold in fee simple, who will take up the case and prosecute it to final judgment. Probably some amicable adjustment was made, which secured the lands to the town.\*

An article was inserted in the warrant "to see if ye town would give Mr. Merriam a call to settle as a gospel minister in ye town." From a defect in the records, it cannot be ascertained what was done.

In August, 1750, at a meeting holden for the purpose, a com-

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\* Since the above was delivered, I have learned that the above named lands do not make a part of the present Parsonage. They are situated on the west road leading from Mr. Daniel Emerson's to the Wadley Corner. Rev. Henry Truc, soon after his settlement, sold out his interest for a mere song, and the purchaser made a very profitable investment of his money.



mittee was chosen "to supply ye pulpit, with ye advice of ye neighboring ministers." A similar vote was passed in 1751. The town thus had preaching most of the time. At a meeting held on the 25th day of February, 1752, the town voted, to "choose and elect Mr. Henry True, to settle with us in ye work of ye ministry." "Voted to give Mr. True for his annual salary £450, each of ye two first years, in money, old tenor, or equal to it in money; and after ye two first years are expired, then £500 a year, of ye like money, during ye time he continues to carry on ye work of ye ministry amongst us, in this town of Hampstead." At an adjourned meeting, they voted, as an additional inducement for him to come, "£1000, o. t., one-half in bills of credit, and ye other half in labor and materials for building—also twenty cords of wood, annually, after he hath a family. Also ye peaceable possession of ye land, granted by the Proprietors of Haverhill, to ye first minister who should settle in Timber Lane." To the call of the town, and this liberal offer, Mr. True returned a letter of acceptance.\*

Mr. True came from Salisbury, Mass. He was graduated at Harvard College, in 1750, and was ordained June 24th, 1752, and continued in the ministry almost thirty years, till his death. "He always maintained the character of a *good man*," (says Rev. Mr. Kelly,) "agreeably to the text, Acts 11: 24, which Rev. Edward Barnard of Haverhill preached from, at his ordination. During the first half of his ministry, no clergyman was more highly esteemed, or better treated by the people than he was. As his family increased, they added to his salary; the whole sum that the people gave him, over his regular salary, was nearly \$3000; and this was when the daily wages of selectmen were only two shillings. But towards the close of his ministry, they cut down his salary, for several years, to \$200 a year. Other ministers came into the place, and by their zealous and loud speaking, produced great commotion, but no revival among the people, who were very sanguine and versatile in their opinions. This did not unsettle the good minister, nor sully his character in the view of any man, but it reduced his salary and the number of his hearers, so that after his decease, the people

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\* See Appendix, A.

were in trouble." For many years, in consequence of a division amongst themselves, they attempted, unsuccessfully, to settle a new minister.

In 1755, during the old French War, Mr. True went into the army as chaplain; also, again in 1762. In a letter to his wife, dated July 11th, at Crown Point, he gives an interesting account of matters occurring in the camp; he speaks of the great drought which was so fatal to the crops that year. His connection with the army does not appear to have been marked by any striking events. After remaining there the appointed time, he returned to his family and people.

Mr. True died suddenly on the 22d of May, 1782, in the fifty-seventh year of his age. It was on the Sabbath, just as he was ready to leave his house for the house of God, to preach as usual, when, with scarcely a moment's warning, he was called to "a tabernacle not made with hands," to spend an eternal Sabbath of rest.

Mr. True was the means of doing much good; his influence is felt to this day. He left a numerous family of children, who settled in different parts of our land, and carried with them the habits and virtues, which their father instilled into their minds, in their youth.

Dr. Jabez True, his son, was one of the first settlers of Ohio; he led a life of more than ordinary usefulness. He died in 1823, at the age of sixty-three. His memory is still cherished by the descendants of the early pioneers of that great State, for his universal charity, simplicity of manners, and sincere piety.

Rev. Henry True, another son, was, for many years, settled in the State of Maine, and now, in his old age, is enjoying the consciousness of having lived a useful life, and is commanding the veneration and respect of every one.

The people of this town can bear testimony to the life of usefulness, which another of the family has led. Her visits of mercy to the sick, her sympathy for the poor and distressed, her disinterested zeal in works of charity and benevolence, have endeared her to us with many ties of affection.

In 1753, the town offered a bounty of four pounds on every wolf killed in the town. An incident, which occurred about this

time, was the cause of the passage of this vote. Lieut. Peter Morse was tending a coal pit upon his land, at some distance from his house. At night, when ready to return to his family, he found himself surrounded by several wolves. He was obliged to pass a long and sleepless night in the forest, and saved his life only by continually throwing fire-brands at them.

Every vestige of the wilderness has long been removed. Among the most vexatious and often calamitous annoyances, which were continually harrassing our ancestors, was the attack of wild beasts upon their flocks.

The warrant for the annual meeting in 1756 commences with the caption,—“Province of New Hampshire. In His Majesty’s name, you are required to meet,” &c. This caption was used this year for the first time, and was continued till the commencement of the Revolutionary War, when it was changed to “Colony of New Hampshire. In the name of the Government and People, you are notified,” &c. After the formation of the Constitution, it was again changed to “State of New Hampshire. In the name of said State, you are,” &c. These changes of captions, though considered small matters in themselves, serve to show how ready the people were to renounce all allegiance to the King of England.

In 1758, a committee was chosen to defend a suit brought by the town of Kingston against Hampstead. The difficulty continued eight years, before it was settled. Before the State line was run in 1741, Hampstead as now constituted, belonged mostly to Haverhill. But a small portion of the eastern part of the town, which went by the name of Amesbury Peak, was claimed, both by Kingston and by Amesbury, although the latter town exercised jurisdiction over the territory. Kingston then comprehended all that is now called Kingston, East Kingston, Danville and Sandown, and being incorporated fifty-five years before Hampstead, would also embrace the disputed territory, after the running of the State line. Though that town had slept fifty-five years, before the incorporation of Hampstead, and eleven years after its incorporation, yet in 1760, “they at last waked up, and fell upon this town with redoubled force, with writ after writ.” These law suits caused the town a good deal of trouble,

and many meetings were called for the purpose of settling the difficulty, or defending the suits. At one time, the town voted to pay Kingston one thousand pounds, old tenor, and costs, which must have amounted to a round sum. There is another vote to pay Kingston twelve hundred pounds, and still another to pay three thousand pounds. But it is difficult to say whether the town ever paid Kingston anything, except the costs. At this state of the difficulty, the Governor interfered, and compromised the matter, by a grant to Kingston, of a tract of land near the Connecticut River. The new township was named Unity, because the granting of it made peace between Hampstead and Kingston. The settlement was finally effected in 1776. It would be very fortunate if all difficulties, arising out of disputed territories, could be settled as amicably as this was.\*

In 1762, the town voted "to keep the meeting house doors shut against all such preachers, whose principles and conduct are such, that neither Congregational nor Presbyterian Churches amongst us can hold communion with, or admit as preachers." From the testimony of Mr. Kelly, "almost all the followers of the new preachers became downright infidels, of which, it is believed, this town had more than any other then known in the State. They sowed the seeds of wickedness so much, that their pernicious influence was felt for many years afterwards, by the goodly number of sober people, who then had no minister to speak the word of truth, and break the bread of life to them."

This account should be taken with some grains of allowance. Mr. Kelly wrote with all the prejudices of a zealous minister of the eighteenth century. The Puritans looked with jealousy upon any sect of Christians, other than their own. The people of this town partook fully of that feeling, and very probably, opposed the new creeds springing up around them, so bitterly, as to cause those who were indifferent to any particular creed in religion, to sympathise with the persecuted. This is always the result of bitter opposition. Often, the surest way to put down error, is to leave it unnoticed. If the doctrine has merits of

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\* "Historical Sketch of Hampstead." The above account by Mr. Kelly is the only statement to be found of the Kingston difficulty.



its own, it will then stand upon them alone ; and if it is really an error, it will fall and destroy itself in its own ruins.

The pay of Selectmen, about this time, was two shillings per day, lawful money. The town, at the annual meeting, voted what compensation the Selectmen for the year previous, should receive. Sometimes they voted to pay them nothing. This was not a very complimentary estimate of the value of their services; but if our public servants at the present day, should be paid for the good they actually do perform, they would, undoubtedly, be more active to perform their duties faithfully, and less eager to sustain the burdens of public office.

Our town has had its share of public calamities. In 1737, in the latter part of the winter, large numbers of cattle died from scarcity of hay ; and many families suffered extremely from want of bread. In 1738, "there was a remarkable worm, which ate the leaves from the oak trees. Other vegetation also suffered." "In 1741, the winter was colder than almost any man ever before knew in New England." In 1749, was the greatest drought ever known in the land. One person writes, "that five acres of good land, newly laid down, produced but one load of hay. That he mowed several days, and could not cut two hundred a day." Some people cut down trees for their cattle to browse, and many sent to Virginia for hay. The corn crop yielded well that year, else their sufferings must have been severe. In 1756, a malignant fever prevailed, which swelled the number of deaths to thirty. In a population of three hundred, this was a fearful mortality. These calamities are, however, too well known to require any further notice.

The circumstances of procuring the bell in this town are attended with some interest. Dea. Thomas Huse, of West Newbury, Mass., in 1809, owned and lived upon the Island. He was a particular friend of Mr. Kelly, and said to him one day, "you have a steeple here and need a bell. If you will go to Mr. George Holbrook, of Brookfield, and speak for a bell, I will pay for it." The bell was accordingly procured and brought upon the ground, before any man in Hampstead knew anything about it, except the two who had been spoken to, to make the frame. It was first suspended from a limb of the old oak tree, in this

neighborhood, and rung, much to the surprise of all the people who had not been apprised of the event;\* a very harmless and agreeable way of perpetrating a joke.†

It is worthy of note, that there are seven farms in this town, that have remained in the same families over one hundred years.‡ It is an old and familiar adage, "there's no place like home;" these farms, then, must be doubly dear to their present owners. The reminiscences of childhood, and the scenes enacted around these hearth-stones of their fathers, render these places dear to them, with a thousand ties of affection.

At a special meeting of the town, called on the twentieth of December, 1774, it was voted, "that the money called for from this town, in order to support the expense of the Delegates of the General Congress sent by this Province, shall be paid out of the town stock." "Also that a Committee of Inspection§ be chosen to regard the conduct of the people, touching the association of the General Congress."

At a special meeting, held July fifteenth, 1776, it was voted "to raise a sum of money sufficient to hire thirteen men, sent for by Col. Gale, as the proportion of this town, to join the Continental Army under Gen. Sullivan, at Canada, or at Crown Point." "Voted to set aside and excuse all those persons, who have done a turn in the war the last year, or their proportion of a turn in said war, from paying any part." The town also chose a committee to hire and enlist the thirteen men called for, and empowered them to procure money for the payment of the soldiers.

This meeting was held, either immediately upon the reception

\* Many of the foregoing facts and statements are found in the "Sketch of Hampstead," before alluded to.

† The following extract is taken from the deed of conveyance by Dea. Huse:

"I, Thomas Huse of Hampstead, &c., in consideration of the love, and good will, and affection which I have and bear to the inhabitants of the town of Hampstead in general, and to the Congregational Church and Society in particular, and with a view and desire to unite a spirit of liberality, and to promote good order, harmony and peace in the said town of Hampstead, have given, granted, and confirmed, and by these presents do give, grant, and confirm unto the said town of Hampstead, for the use and benefit of said inhabitants in general, and for the use and benefit of said Church and Society in particular,—forever—a certain meeting house bell now on the meeting house in said Hampstead, made by George Holbrook, at Brookfield, Mass. \* \* \*"—*Records of Hampstead, Vol. 2, pp. 62-3.*

‡ These farms are either owned or occupied by the following persons, respectively, viz: Mr. Jonathan Williams; Heirs of John H. Clark, who died the present season; Mr. Caleb Hadley; Dr. Samuel Morse; Mr. Moses Atwood; Mr. Amasa Easton; and Widows Mary Calef.

§ See Appendix.

of the news of the Declaration of Independence, or a few days prior, and when that instrument was the general subject of thought and conversation. It shows that ours was not behind other towns, in responding to the action of Congress. Committees of Inspection were chosen at various times, during the war.

In 1777, another draft was made upon this town, "for men to join the Continental Army under Col. Bartlett." The town immediately voted to send the men, and joined the Selectmen with the commissioned officers, to procure them.

In December 1777, John Calfe was chosen a "Representative to act in the General Assembly to be holden at Exeter, with *full power* to transact such measures as the Assembly might judge necessary for the public good; and, also, to choose Delegates to the Continental Congress." Mr. Calfe was annually chosen to represent the town, till our present Constitution was adopted. The unlimited power entrusted to him, speaks volumes in favor of his integrity, and of the confidence the people reposed in him. It also shows, that this town was ready to perform its share of the great Revolution to be effected on this Continent. Many other towns would not empower their Delegates with full authority, from a distrust of the expediency of many of the measures then proposed, but which time has proved to have been wisely enacted.

In 1778, a Committee was chosen "to provide for the families of those that had gone into the army for the town of Hampstead." At the annual meeting in 1778, it was voted, even in anticipation, "to procure the soldiers that might be called for during the year." In 1779, it was voted "to allow those soldiers that were for and from this town, something for their losses in their retreat from Tianteroga, [Ticonderoga,(?)] in 1777." At a special meeting, in May 1779, they voted "to procure the men, (five in number,) then called for, and also to raise more men, if called for that year." Again, in July, another meeting was called and new measures taken to procure men to join the New-Hampshire battalion; and, also to procure men to go to Rhode Island, to join the army there. At this time the paper currency, issued by Congress, had depreciated so much, as to be almost worthless. The people of Portsmouth met to consider what

remedy could best be applied. Their consultation resulted in fixing a price for all articles of merchandise, which should be uniform throughout the State. The Selectmen of Portsmouth issued Circulars to the different towns, asking their coöperation. At a special meeting, this town "voted to come into the plan adopted by Portsmouth, provided three-fourths of the other towns should do the same." The adoption of this plan, necessarily resulted in great pecuniary sacrifices.\*

There are many other interesting votes passed during the Revolution;\* but enough have been noticed, to show that this town took an active part in that great struggle. There was no time during the war, when it did not furnish its full quota of men. Its money was freely given, and its men willingly sent forth to fight the battles of a common country. In Rhode Island, on the shores of Lake George, and at Crown Point, are entombed the ashes of our townsmen. In common with the rest of our country, our ancestors were aroused by the insults and injuries heaped upon them by England. They fought against powerful odds. In the darkest periods of the Revolution, the hardy yeomanry flocked around the standard of America, and wrested from the hands of our mother land, the power which she vainly asserted. In the eloquent language of another,† "those were times that tried men's souls, and never, in any age, or in any country, did there exist a race of men, whose souls were better fitted for the trial. Patient in suffering, firm in adversity, calm and collected amid the dangers which pressed around them, cool in council and brave in battle, they were worthy of the cause, and the cause was worthy of them." In their privations and wrongs, "the sufferers were upheld by that kind of holy fortitude, which enabled the christian martyrs to smile amidst the flames, and to triumph, even in the agonies of death."

\* \* \* "Every grade of society, all ages, and both sexes, kindled in this sacred competition of patriotism. The *Ladies* of the Colonies, in the dawn, and throughout the whole progress of the Revolution, shone with preëminent lustre, in this war of

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\* There are other votes recorded in the town books, passed during the difficulty with France, in the Presidency of John Adams. Also similar votes, passed during the war of 1812.

† Wirt's Life of Patrick Henry.



fortitude and self-denial. They renounced, without a sigh, the use of the luxuries and even of the comforts, to which they had been accustomed, and felt a nobler pride in appearing dressed in the simple productions of their own looms, than they had ever experienced from glittering in the brightest ornaments of the East."

If *our* fathers and mothers did not occupy so prominent a place in the great drama of the Revolution, as others who lived nearer the scenes of active operations, it was not because they lacked brave and patriotic spirits. They contributed their full quota of the honest yeomanry, that composed our bravest troops. They freely gave of their fortunes, to promote the sacred cause; they protected, from hunger and danger, the wives and little ones of those who had gone manfully forth to the fight. In that day, America knew no distinction of rank or person. It was a common cause, for the common good. The humblest soldier in that war, if animated with the same patriotic feelings, *deserves* and *receives* the same grateful remembrance from posterity. What though his name be lost! What though every trace of his life's history be destroyed! He performed well his part in life, and the influence of his acts will descend through all time, and incite other men, in other ages, to the same noble struggles to become free, even as now the cowering millions of Europe are striving to break the tyranny of power;—even as the noble Hungarians are contending for life and liberty against the allied despotic powers of Austria and Russia.

It is proper to notice, though, from necessity, briefly, the principal men of our town.

Richard Hazzen came from Haverhill, Mass., and was among the first settlers. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1717. In 1741, he was one of the principal Surveyors in running the line between this State and Massachusetts. He died suddenly in October, 1754. He was a useful and trustworthy citizen and was so esteemed by his fellow townsmen. He was so well known and prominent, that he is mentioned on the records simply as Mr. Hazzen, his christian name being omitted.

Daniel Little, Esq., also came from Haverhill. By the authority given him in the town charter, he called the first town

meeting, for the purpose of organizing. He was often chosen Selectman, and placed upon important committees, and was a valuable and influential citizen. He died in 1777, at the good old age of 86, lamented by all his fellow townsmen. His descendants compose a numerous and valuable part of our present population. His son Samuel was a Justice of the Peace, often one of the Selectmen, and frequently filled other important offices in town. Another son, Rev. Daniel Little, was the first minister of Kennebunk, Maine; and preached in this town before the settlement of Mr. True. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and had the honorary degree of A. M. conferred upon him at Harvard College.

Gen. Jacob Bayley resided in this town several years. He came from Newbury, Mass., and was a very enterprising man. After living here several years, he went as a leading man and settled in Newbury, Vt., which town he named after his native place. He was distinguished as an officer in the Revolutionary War.

Capt. John Hazzen, who was born in Haverhill, Mass., and was nephew to Richard Hazzen, also, was a man of enterprise. After living in this town several years, he removed to settle in Haverhill of this State, which place he named after the place of his nativity.

Hon. Charles Johnson was another very worthy man, who went from this place with Capt. Hazzen, as one of the first and most valuable men in that company.

Hon. John Calfe, born in Newbury, Mass., came to this town from Kingston, N. H. He was a descendant of the celebrated Robert Calfe, a merchant of Boston, who so strenuously withstood the measures of the government in putting supposed witches to death, in Salem. He was a Deacon in the Church at Hampstead thirty-five years,—a Justice of the Peace twenty-nine years, and of the Quorum throughout the State thirteen years,—Judge of the Court of Common Pleas twenty-five years,—and Clerk of the House of Representatives twenty-five years. He annually represented this and two neighboring towns in the General Assembly, during the War of the Revolution, at a time when he was under thirty years of age. He was also a member of the

Committee of Safety, with discretionary power to transact all State affairs during the recess of the Assembly. At the age of eighteen, he was an under officer on the shores of Lake Champlain, in the war against the French and Indians. He was also an officer in the Revolutionary Army. He was Secretary of the Convention for forming the State Constitution, and of the Convention for ratifying the Federal Constitution. He was once chosen State Treasurer, but did not accept the office. In his memoir it is said, "that no man ever more sacredly regarded *the will of the people*, than he. In all his public transactions, his conduct was regulated, not by the views of party men, but by what he conceived to be the wish of the whole people." He died in 1808, in the 68th year of his age. On the meeting of the Legislature the next month, it was voted, in testimony of respect for his memory, that the members of the House would wear black crape on the left arm during the session. "To the close of his life, he sustained a fair, unblemished character, which envy or malice would scarce dare impeach."\*

There is not time to notice, at large, other prominent men. A mere mention of their names must suffice. Among those whom we hold in grateful remembrance, are Dea. Peter Eastman, for twenty-five years Town Clerk; Dea. Benjamin Kimball; Capt. William Marshall, the first Representative from this town under the new Constitution; Dea. Timothy Goodwin; Lieut. Peter Morse; Dea. Samuel Currier; Daniel Little, Esq., recently deceased; Dea. Moses Little; Dea. Job Kent; John True, Esq.; Col. Jonathan Little; Reuben Harriman; Col. Benjamin Emerson; Dea. John Emerson; Bartholomew Heath; Jonathan Eastman; Jesse Gordon, Esq.; and Isaac Noyes, Esq., deceased the present year. There are the names of many others, in the history of the town, whom we would like to notice, and who have equal claims upon our remembrance. But time forbids us to delay. Nor is it necessary to recite their histories. We hold their acts in grateful remembrance. The influence of their well spent lives is felt by us to-day. Their love of order and religion, their veneration for things sacred, their public spirit,

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\* The preceding account of the prominent citizens is condensed from Mr. Kelly's Sketch of Hampstead, and from the History of Judge Caffe. Information derived from other sources, has been added.

worthy of imitation in these days, their generosity towards objects of charity, and their friendly relations in neighborhoods and among each other—all their noble traits of character command our highest veneration.

To the memory of the venerable man who so recently left this world, as we trust, for a better one, it is fitting that we pay more than a passing tribute.

Rev. John Kelly was born in Amesbury, Mass., February 22, 1763; he was graduated at Dartmouth College in 1791, and ordained at Hampstead, December 5, 1792. There was no dissenting voice against his settlement, although for the ten years previous, there had been no settled minister here, and many ineffectual attempts had been made to procure one. The salary voted to him was sixty pounds a year and the use of the Parsonage. “Also ten cords of wood a year for ten years, and if he shall not find that sufficient, liberty to cut more from the Parsonage.” When ten years should expire, they were to give him fifteen cords a year. They also voted “to give him two cows and six sheep, when called for.” To the call and offer of the town, he returned, with his usual frankness, an affirmative answer;\* an answer, too, which breathes the spirit of evangelical piety.

It is worthy of mention, that Mr. Kelly outlived every individual who was a member of his church at the time he became connected with it. Of all the men, that helped settle him, only two survive.† It was his lot to see the rest depart, one after another, to the spirit land, to find himself left almost alone, to mourn their departure, and to witness the extinguishment of the “objects of their ardent hopes and high endeavor.”

The result of his labors is known to us all. Scandal never moved its tongue to defame his character, or oppugn his motives. In private life he was distinguished for mildness and dignity; in the discharge of his public duties, for meekness, for practical knowledge in life and in the scriptures, for sound judgment and correct taste. Although all here present may not have agreed with him in religious belief, yet all will unite in awarding to him

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\* See Appendix, B.

† Capt. Jonathan C. Little and Mr. Hezekiah Ayer.



the best intentions in all his actions. First convinced of the correctness of his opinions, he endeavored mildly, but firmly, to convince others. At the bed-side of the sick, and in the house of mourning, he was a frequent visitor. Conscious of the duties and responsibilities of his profession, it was his highest endeavor to live a fit example of a Godly and Christian Minister. To the dying, he strove to point out the way to eternal life ;—to the afflicted, the consolations of religion ;—and to all, the importance of obedience, and implicit faith in the wisdom of our Creator.

To him death was a welcome messenger. He was prepared to go “ through the valley and shadow of death without fear.” In ripe old age, after almost half a century spent in the work of the ministry, he went down to the grave, beloved and lamented by all who survived him.

We have thus, fellow-citizens, run rapidly over our history, down to the commencement of the present century. The events that have since transpired, are of so recent occurrence, that they need not now be reviewed.

It is but little more than a century, since the first white man pressed his feet upon our soil ; and yet how little do we know of the eventful lives of our fathers ! The place of their first abode contains hardly a relic of their habitations. In the improvements of the age, and in the progress of the arts, we have lost sight of their customs, and discarded the things so familiar to them. The ruins, yet to be seen, disclose to our minds, scenes of deep and thrilling interest. In the infancy of this settlement, what interesting topics of conversation serve to beguile the weary hours of evening ;—what joys and sorrows occurred to break the monotony of their lives ;—with what anguish the whole household watched for the return of the absent father or son ;—what fear of the prowling wolf, or lurking savage filled their minds wearied with watching—we have not time enquire. When, in the long and dark night of the Revolution, so many of their young men had gone forth to battle, with what painful suspense did each family wait for news from the absent ones. And when the painful intelligence came, that the eldest and favorite son of their beloved pastor, had fallen in battle, with what rapidity did the intelligence pass from house to house.—

What increased anxiety did parents feel, lest the next messenger should announce that a beloved friend had fallen in battle. What sleepless nights did they pass in tearful thought of the absent ones, the bewildered imagination picturing a fond husband or son suffering the privations of a life in the camp, perchance, lying wounded upon the field of battle, with no friend to bathe his burning temples, or to bring a cup of water to cool his parching thirst. Or again in frightful dreams, beholding his corse, stretched lifeless, upon the battle plains, the cold moon beams shining into his features, fixed in death.

For a brief hour, we have attempted to live in the past only. We have followed our ancestors, from the earliest period in their history to the latest acts of their lives. We have suffered with them in their troubles, and rejoiced with them in their joys. We have seen them, a hardy, enterprising and patient race, struggling against want, and privations, and the calamities of war, and all the evils incident to new settlements; and we have seen them too, though lacking the luxuries of wealth, and the refinements of polished society, exerting their influence, and laboring in the cause of religion, and of education, and those benevolent institutions so common to New England, that they have made it renowned, the world over, for virtue and enterprise. We have not found them without their faults. But "their faults were usually virtues carried too far;" "faults partly belonging to the times, but more the effect of strong feelings without the advantages of early discipline. At the same time we have seen in them the rudiments of real refinement, warm, kind, and gentle feelings, —and specimens of politeness worthy of the patriarchal age."

But they are gone forever from these places. Their ashes are entombed in yonder burial-place. They are gone, and with them all they loved or feared, the objects so dear to them in life, and the temptations they labored so hard to remove. But they yet speak to us. *Their example lives*, and to-day brightens the sun of our existence with its living influence.

There comes up the thought, full of meaning, what will be the condition of our beloved town, a century to come? At the next Centennial Celebration, who will be the actors? Time alone can disclose the fortune that awaits those who shall come after



us. But we know who will not be actors then. We shall be "gathered to our fathers." The sun will shine as brightly then upon these beautiful places; these waters will sparkle before his presence reflecting a thousand flashing rays; these trees will afford the same delightful shade; and the earth yield its annual return to the toiling husbandman. But another generation will occupy our places. The names of many of us will be no longer known. But the influence of our lives will be felt though we be forgotten in our graves. )

Nor can we tell what mighty changes will then have been effected. Within the last year and a half, revolution after revolution, in the old world, has taken place in such rapid succession, that the mind awakes to the startling reality, scarcely able to comprehend the sudden change. The King of the French, acknowledged the wealthiest man in the world, the wisest sovereign that ever sat upon the throne of France, and thought to be securely seated upon that throne, the "Citizen King of 1830," is deposed, and in the meanest garb of disguise, flees before an outraged populace to the British Isles for refuge. France, the scene of so much blood-shed, and of so many revolutions, raises the standard of liberty, and other nations, catching the sound of the shouts of freemen, in a day, compel the Monarchs of Europe to loosen the reins of power; and thrones that had stood firmly for ages, they make to tremble upon their foundations. Austria, the land of tyranny and oppression, compels her Emperor to abdicate. Prince Metternich, so long the crafty and subtle Prime Minister to a powerful Monarch, whose iron will and selfish heart had so long directed the affairs of a nation, whose every thought and act had been directed to the establishment of despotism and the spread of Popery, suddenly finds himself unable to stem the current of popular indignation, and is compelled to retire from the high post he had so basely prostituted, to muse in solitude upon his past life, and commune with his own corrupt heart. The Pope, whose election was hailed by the whole civilized world as the harbinger of a better administration of the affairs of Rome, is hardly seated upon his throne, before he "flees in disguise from his pontifical halls, and St. Peter's and the Vatican resound with the triumphal shouts of an awak-

ened nation." The seed of liberty, sown by our fathers in the days of the Revolution, is springing up in every part of Europe, and promises to convert those despotic powers and monarchies into new and powerful Republics; the voice of the people, so long stifled behind the throne, is begining to reach the ears of Kings and Emperors, and will ere long assert their rights in the majesty of their strength. Hungary is struggling against the most unholy alliance ever entered into to suppress the efforts of a people to become free. She has nobly flung to the breeze the banner of liberty, and is bravely contending against the most powerful odds. We wait with the most intense anxiety for the next news that shall tell us of the fate of a people who are imitating our example, and hold in such veneration the memory of our Washington.

"On the Western Continent, the Saxons conquer and dismember Mexico. California outshines the wealth of India.—The disloyal Canadians insult the representative of majesty," and the United States are extending their borders over a whole Continent.

In the physical world, within a score of years, by the discovery of the application of steam to machinery, we are carried across the waters with a speed and safety, until recently deemed unattainable. The most distant parts of our country are connected by iron rails reaching out and extending in every direction. The hourly rate of speed has gone up from five miles to thirty, and even in some cases to fifty; and the most sanguine are not deemed visionary, when they predict that it will soon be increased to an hundred. The electric wire, with the wings of the lightning, conveys every moment, from shore to shore, a new subject for thought or action.

Within the last few years, it has been our fortune to witness these magic changes. Each new year will open to us some new improvement in the world of inventions, and a century hence, the historian of that time will record the discovery of wonders far surpassing any conception which we are able to form.

The interest with which the annual return of this day is awaited, induces me to ask your indulgence for a few moments longer.

This day, the joyful shout, *America is free*, spreads from State to State, from town to town, and from house to house, till the whole land rings with the glad voice, and echo upon echo comes back from every mountain and hill-side, *America is free!* On our mountains and on our plains, on our noble rivers and on the great waters, a thousand voices unite in the shouts of liberty, and a thousand echoes send back the soft notes of the songs of Freedom. The deep, shady glens and beautiful groves resound to the merry voices of thoughtless, innocent children. The busy streets are filled with throngs of freemen, self-divested of the cares and occupations of life. "Eloquence, with burning lips and glowing tongue," portrays those magnificent triumphs, which history has already written for posterity.

Its early dawning is awaited with scarce restrained impatience, to be ushered in with firing of ~~the~~ cannons, ringing of bells, and every demonstration of joy. It is celebrated by every class of Americans,—by every society and organization,—by civic processions,—by floral gatherings,—by orations,—by military reviews,—each and all, with the joy and enthusiasm, which *Americans* only can feel. The going-down of the sun is the signal for the gathering of thousands, to close the festivities of the day with every exhibition of art which the pyrotechnist can display. Amid the blazing of rockets, and the glittering of fireworks, rivalling the stars in splendor and in beauty, end the varied scenes of this Anniversary.

We seem to linger around the scenes of that dark hour in our nation's history, when every hope of the future was involved in doubt and disappointment. The spirit of the past carries us back a period of seventy-three years. We look upon the devoted, self-denying men who composed the memorable Congress of 1776. We consider the thoughts which heaved their breasts; mark the alternations of hope and fear, of confidence and doubt, which reveal the agonies within. We note the solemn stillness that rests upon them,—the deep and absorbing interest, growing more intense. The Declaration of Independence is read. Incensed at the wrongs inflicted upon America, they speak of the shedding of their brothers' blood at Lexington, and Concord, and Bunker Hill, in the language of

outraged manhood, and vow to avenge the death of their martyr countrymen. "Eloquence is poured forth from inexhaustible fountains. It assumes every variety of hue, and form, and motion, which can delight or persuade, instruct or astonish. Now it is the limpid rivulet, sparkling down the mountain's side and winding its silver course between margins of moss ;—anon it is the angry ocean, chafed by the tempest, hanging its billows with deafening clamors among the crackling shrouds, or hurling them in sublime defiance at the storm that frowns above."

It is finished ; they declare our country free, and in support of that Declaration, "pledge their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor." Lives and fortunes were sacrificed in its defence, but our Country's honor was sustained.

Now war is raging throughout our native land. Hostile armies of one and the same name, blood and language, are arrayed for battle. Years of darkness and doubt succeed, lighted only by some struggling rays of hope, and the fires of war. But darkness and doubt pass at length away, and day dawns upon the long, dark night of the Revolution.

More than half a century has rolled away, since the glory of that bright morning broke upon us, and another scene is disclosed. Where swept the tide of war, now all is calm, and fresh and still.

The roll of musketry and the clash of arms are hushed, and the pillow of repose is pressed in quiet. "The busy town, and the rural cottage, the lowing herd, the cheerful hearth, the village school, the rising spire, the solemn bell, the voice of prayer, and the hymn of praise, brighten and adorn American life and privileges."

You have had imperfectly sketched to you, fellow townsmen, the most prominent scenes in the history of our native town ; and the character of this day required that some allusion should be made to our Country's proud career.

We have performed a grateful duty to the memory of our ancestors. They sought this land when it was a wilderness. The name of Puritan, which was fastenèd on them as a term of reproach, they meekly accepted, and so adorned with the even tenor of their lives, and with the rectitude and consistency of their characters, that it has become more honorable than that of



king or ruler. The American traces his descent from the emigrants in the May-Flower, with greater satisfaction, than if he could, with indisputable certainty, trace his ancestral stream back to the proudest noblemen of the most chivalrous age of England.

American and New England privileges, have they left us. They struggled long and hard to establish these free institutions of ours. And when they bequeathed them to us, they also enjoined it upon us to preserve and maintain them untarnished, and hand them down to those who shall come after us, increased instruments of good.

Let us so discharge *our* duties to our Country, to each other, to ourselves, and to our God, that when in one hundred years from this day, the people of Hampstead shall again assemble to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of their Incorporation, and the memory of *their* fathers, we may have the same grateful remembrance in their hearts, that our ancestors this day occupy in ours. But if through human error, or party strife, we suffer these golden privileges to become lost,—this sacred legacy to become corrupted in our hands,—in the bitter moments of reflection and regret, there will come to our minds the consoling truth that,

“The spirit cannot always sleep in dust,  
Whose essence is ~~etherial~~; they may try Σ  
To darken and degrade it; it may rust  
Dimly awhile, but cannot wholly die;  
And *when it awakens*, it will send its fire  
Intenser forth, and higher.”

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A P P E N D I X .

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PROCEEDINGS  
AT THE  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
AT  
HAMPSTEAD, N. H.

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During the winter of 1848-9, the propriety of celebrating the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Hampstead, was suggested by many of the inhabitants of the town. As the anniversary day fell on the 19th of January, in the midst of the most inclement season of the year, and as it was deemed desirable to have as many of the natives and former citizens, "who had strayed away from the old homestead," present, as possible, it was determined to defer taking any steps towards the proposed celebration, till the return of warm weather.

In the following May, the subject was again proposed, and was suggested to many of the citizens and met their cordial approbation. On the Sabbath of May 27th, Rev. Mr. Bartley, according to request, alluded to the subject and gave notice to all who felt disposed, to meet at the Centre School House on the Monday evening following.

Agreeably to this notice, several of the citizens assembled at the above mentioned time and place. The following is the Record of the Secretary.

The meeting was organized by appointing Mr. MOODY H. BRICKETT, *Chairman*, and E. H. L. GIBSON, *Secretary*.

*Voted*, To celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the Incorporation of this town, and that the exercises be on the 4th of July next, in the "Davis Grove."

On motion, a Committee was appointed by the Chair, to nominate a Committee of Arrangements.

The Chair appointed Dr. Josiah C. Eastman, Messrs. Caleb Moulton and Richard K. Brickett.

The said Committee reported the names of the following gentlemen to constitute a Committee of Arrangements, viz :

Messrs. Isaac Smith, Amos Buck, Christopher P. Ayer, Nelson Ordway, Caleb Moulton, Moody H. Brickett, Henry Putnam, William Clark,\* Hiram Nichols.\*

And the gentlemen, reported to the meeting, were elected.

*Voted*, To give the Committee of Arrangements power to add to their number, if they find it necessary.

*Voted*, To give the Committee discretionary power in making arrangements for the proposed Celebration.

The meeting was then adjourned.

E. H. L. GIBSON, *Secretary*.

The Committee of Arrangements met on the following day, and elected the following gentlemen as additional members, viz :

Messrs. Tristram Little, Frederick A. Pike, Joseph G. Brown, Stephen S. Shannon, Ebenezer Hoyt, Samuel Morse,\* Jacob E. Eastman.

The Committee of Arrangements held meetings from time to time, as the case required. At their first session, it was voted to celebrate the day by an address appropriate to the occasion, by a procession, by a picnic in the Grove, and by other exercises usual at such celebrations. It was voted to invite FREDERICK EMERSON, ESQ., of Boston, to deliver the address. In reply to the invitation of the Committee, Mr. Emerson wrote as follows :

"It is truly gratifying to me, to be thus kindly remembered in the place of my nativity, and I feel deeply obliged to the Committee for the honor they have chosen to confer upon me. The occasion of the celebration is, indeed, full of interest, and, if the circumstances which surround me at this time would allow me to accept the invitation, I would do so with much pleasure. But I feel compelled to decline. I have made such engagements of my time, for the thirty days that will intervene between this time and the 4th of July, that I should be wholly unable to make the historical research, necessary for the address. Although I must thus decline the office of making the address of the day, I shall look forward with much pleasure to the celebration, for it is my intention to be present and listen to some other son of Hampstead, and once more shake the hands of my fellow townsmen."

The Committee then extended an invitation to MR. ISAAC W. SMITH, of Manchester, and expressed an earnest desire that he would consent to deliver the address, as the time was wearing away when it would be impossible to secure any one, and it was desirable that the address should be pronounced by a native of

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\* Refused to act.

the town. An affirmative reply was given by him, at the same time, stating that it would be impossible to go into any very extensive search among old records and papers, both from the shortness of the time and from press of other duties.

The Committee of Arrangements invited the Ladies to assemble and make what provision they might think proper, in relation to the duties more properly coming under their supervision.

At a meeting of the Ladies, held in accordance with the above invitation, it was voted, that families in town be invited to contribute provisions for the tables. It was also voted, to decorate the Grove with flowers and evergreen. The following Ladies were chosen a Committee to carry out these propositions.

Misses Esther Bartley, Mary C. Smith, Elvira Ordway, Susan E. Putnam, Mary A. Garland, Elizabeth A. Little, Mary J. Heath, Almira B. Sargent, Clara A. Kent, Mary A. Brown, Mary E. Merrill, Philena W. Hoyt, Clara A. Colby, Martha J. Smith, Louisa E. Kent, Susan E. Johnson, Mrs. Betsey A. Abbott, Mrs. Mary J. Atwood, Misses Betsey H. Davis, Sarah Morse.

Great credit is due to both Committees for the exertions they made to make the preparations for the proposed celebration every way worthy of the occasion. The Ladies of the town contributed bountifully to supply the tables with refreshments. The Grove, for a few days previous to the 4th, resounded with the merry voices of fair Ladies and gallant Gentlemen, while they vied with each other, in decorating the place with all the attractions which taste could display or ingenuity devise. The gentlemen contributed liberally to defray the expenses incident to the celebration, and every arrangement was made which was desirable in a quiet town, where the people are disinclined to show, and are content with a participation in the ordinary occurrences of life.

On Monday, the 2d, the weather was sultry, with occasional showers, which cooled the air, and gave promise of a fair day on Wednesday. Tuesday was a cool but pleasant day, the precursor of a more delightful one to follow. On Wednesday morning the sun rose in all the splendor of a summer's morning. Ere he made his appearance from beyond the eastern hills, the day was ushered in by the ringing of bells and the discharge of cannon. The firing of the national salute was under the direction of LIEUT. SIMON Dow, who deserves great praise for the care and promptitude he manifested in the discharge of his duties. The spot selected by him was upon the hill near the Grove, and from its elevation was admirably chosen. The booming of the guns across the still waters of the ponds, and the thousand

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echoes awakened among the distant hills, reminded all that the day was one of unusual interest to the quiet town of Hampstead. Early in the morning, the finishing touches were given to the Grove, and the tables bountifully laden with the luxuries of life.

A large stage was built, in front of the seats arranged for the audience, decorated with evergreen and flowers, and ornamented with beautiful devices. On the front of the stage, in letters wrought with roses, and arranged in the form of an arc, was the word "INDEPENDENCE;" and immediately under it, wrought in the same way, the figures "1776." Over the speaker's desk, were suspended the figures "1749," wrought in white rose buds, and standing prominent from the centre of a large boquet.

Mr. Tristram Little generously contributed more than a thousand roses, on the morning of the 4th; and the citizens from the east part of the town also contributed another large number.

In a celebration of this character, there will always be a small number of persons, upon whom will devolve the performance of the greater share of the labor. Upon the present occasion, however, each seemed to strive in out-doing the others. When all were so deeply interested, it would be invidious to point out particular individuals by name. The people acted in a spirit of unanimity and harmony seldom equalled.

The officers of the day, selected by the Committee of Arrangements were as follows:

JOHN ORDWAY, Esq., *President*.

JAMES CALEF, Esq., DEA. JOSHUA EASTMAN, DEA. JONATHAN KENT, MOSES HOYT, Esq., ANDREW B. MARSHALL, Esq., MR. JOHN LITTLE, MR. HORACE BAILEY, MR. JAMES HADLEY, *Vice Presidents*.

Early in the forenoon the streets began to fill up with strangers and citizens. The "Hampstead Light Infantry Company," under command of Capt. John P. Stickney, performed escort duty; by the steadiness of their movements, exactness in the performance of their evolutions, and by their gentlemanly and soldier-like bearing, they elicited the praise of all. They would compare favorably with many Independent Companies in cities or larger towns, where opportunities for drill and exercise are more favorable and frequent. The "Atkinson and Methuen Brass Band" discoursed their music upon the occasion. Their reputation is too well known to require any praise at this time. They were, if possible, more than usually successful.

According to previous notice, the people assembled in the Old Meeting House, and at ten o'clock, the house was filled to over-



flowing. The Invited Guests from abroad, together with the Officers of the day, assembled at Spiggot Hall, and were escorted to the Old Meeting House, by Capt. Stiekney's Company.

A procession was then formed, to march to the Davis Grove, under the direction of

JESSE AYER, *Chief Marshal.*

Amos Ring, Jacob E. Eastman, Simon Merrill, Edward R. Noyes, Francis V. Dow, George W. Eastman, *Assistant Marshals.*

The procession was formed at the Old Meeting House in the following order, viz :

CHIEF MARSHAL.

Music.

Hampstead Light Infantry.

*Marshal.* Youth and Gentlemen. *Marshal.*

*Marshal.* President and Orator of the Day. *Marshal.*

Clergymen.

Invited Guests from abroad.

*Marshal.* Ladies. *Marshal.*

Ladies' Committee of Arrangements.

Gentlemen's Committee of Arrangements.

On reaching the Grove, the Military and Gentlemen opened to the right and left and the procession then passed in. After the audience were seated and every arrangement completed, the President announced the exercises in the following

ORDER.

I. Music, by the Band.

II. Reading of the Town Charter, by *Mr. Caleb Moulton.*

III. Invocation and Reading of the Scriptures,\* by *Rev. Joseph Smith*, of Newport, R. I.

IV. Anthem, by the Choir.

V. Prayer, by *Rev. Jesse Page*, of Atkinson, N. H.

VI. Reading of the Declaration of Independence, by *Mr. Ezekiel H. L. Gibson.*

VII. Music, by the Band.

VIII. Address, by *Mr. Isaac W. Smith.*

IX. Anthem, by the Choir.

X. Prayer, by *Rev. J. M. C. Bartley.*

After these exercises had been gone through, the wants of the body were attended to.

Great credit is due to the Ladies of Hampstead for the abundant supply of the good things of this life, furnished by them for

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\* Omitted. Mr. Smith, a native of Hampstead was prevented from being present.

the tables. They entered fully into the interest of the day, and contributed in no small degree to its enjoyment.

When the luxuries of the table had been fully discussed, and the opportunity embraced for the interchange of friendly greetings and recognitions, the people attended to the reading of the following letters from natives of the town who were unable to attend.

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Letter from Benjamin D. Emerson, Esq., of Roxbury, Mass.

JAMAICA PLAIN, JULY 3d, 1849.

*Dear Sir:*—I have delayed till this late period to answer your gratifying invitation to be present at the approaching Centennial Celebration of my native town, and participate "in the festivities of the occasion," vainly hoping it would be in my power to accept it. There are few things that impart a warmer or more thrilling glow to an old man's bosom, than the manifestation of kindness and respectful consideration from his younger brethren; and I cannot too feelingly express my thanks for being thus courteously remembered by your committee. Nothing would afford me more satisfaction, than to spend the day with the good people of my native town, partake of their hospitality, and reciprocate congratulations with *all*; with the *old*, whose reminiscences reach far back into by-gone days, and also with the *young*, on whom, (under Providence,) rest the responsibilities of the present, and the destinies of the future "weal or woe," of the good old town of Hampstead.

No spot, in this wide world, is so dear to me, as that where I first inhaled the vital air, and first looked out upon this beautiful world; where stood those venerated edifices, the *School House* and the *Meeting House*; in one of which, we were taught the rudiments of Letters, in the other, our duties to our God and our fellow men; and lastly, where repose the sacred ashes of my beloved parents.

May the choicest of Heaven's blessings be bestowed and rest upon Hampstead and its inhabitants. May peace and social harmony ever dwell in your midst. May smiling health prevail in all your habitations. May prosperity attend all your laudable enterprises. May your children, from generation to generation, as they, in succession, rise up, attain to higher and higher excellence, drink more and more copiously from the fountains of *Wisdom*, of *Truth* and of *Goodness*. And as they, from time to time, go forth and mingle with the world, may they so deport themselves, as to reflect honor upon the place of their nativity.

Very respectfully and truly your obliged friend and servant,  
B. D. EMERSON.

ISAAC SMITH, Esq.,  
*Chairman of Committee of Arrangements.*

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Letter from Mr. Lorenzo Kent, of Woodstock, Vt.

WOODSTOCK, JUNE 30, 1849.

*Dear Sir:*—Your letter of the 20th inst., came duly to hand, and I regret exceedingly, that my engagements are such as to render it impossible for me to comply with your kind invitation, in regard to the coming 4th of July. The time, and the object of your proposed celebration awaken in the heart of every true lover of these our happy and peaceful

homes, the liveliest feelings of the human heart. We remember those days of labor, privation and suffering, through which our forefathers passed, that they might secure for us, their children, the joys of a free and happy country. It is our duty and our privilege, to preserve, to cherish and to improve our free institutions, for our children, and our children's children.

With much respect, I am your servant,  
L. KENT.

TO ISAAC SMITH, ESQ.,  
*Chairman of Committee of Arrangements.*

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Letter from Mr. E. H. Little, of Boston, Mass.

BOSTON, JULY 3, 1849.

ISAAC SMITH, ESQ., *Chairman of Committee of Arrangements:*

*Dear Sir:*—I received your letter of invitation under date of June 19th, to unite with the citizens of Hampstead in their Centennial Celebration on the 4th instant.

In your communication, you refer to me as one having "strayed away from the old Homestead." This is true. I did stray away and for several years thereafter I became somewhat a roving character, floating about from the Bay of St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico; but finding the old adage to be true, that a "rolling stone gathereth no moss," I came to the conclusion that I must settle down somewhere if the moss would stick; and now I find myself identified with the interest and feelings of the citizens of Boston.

It is now nearly thirty-three years since I left my native town of Hampstead, during which time I have only visited it occasionally, and even then my stay has usually been very short.

The business of the town has changed so materially, especially in the mechanical branches, that I find but few attractions of interest there; still, the houses, the ponds, the hills and valleys remain the same, and a few familiar faces, whose locks have whitened with age, that call up to mind the pleasant reminiscences of by gone days—the patriot Fathers of the town.

Of their sons and daughters, companions of my early days, where are they? When I look around and enquire for them, I am told they are mostly gone,—and but few remain to honor their parents and gladden their hearts in the evening of life.

I regret that I cannot be with you to participate in the festivities of the occasion, but I will give you a sentiment.

*New Hampshire*—Distinguished for the production and growth of her sons, and Massachusetts for their nourishment and support—namely, her Webster, her Emersons, and her Mason—besides the *Little Fry*.

I am, very respectfully, your ob't serv't,  
E. H. LITTLE.

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Extract from a letter written by Rev. Henry True, of Union, Me., to his sister in Hampstead, and read upon the occasion.

"Tell Mr. Smith and others of the Committee, that I feel very sensibly their kind invitation to attend the Centennial Celebration. I should be much delighted to be present, if circumstances, and the state of my health rendered it suitable. I will be present in spirit, although not in

body. It seems that the town was incorporated but three years when our father was ordained.

I must let the "royal oak"\* be my representative at the festival. It is the oldest inhabitant of the town, and if his sight and hearing were good, he would give more history, than all the other inhabitants. It has had several of its limbs amputated by the Indians, but he has not lost his scalp. His head and shoulders tower aloft and buffet the fleet wings of time.

The royal oak, it was the tree,  
That swiftly I ran down to see,  
The first time I had trowsers on.

It has heard Latin and Greek conned over numberless times. On the branches, Samuel once shot pigeons, and many squirrels lost their lives by climbing it. If he could speak English, he would tell how our father went out two campaigns in the old French War, was at Crown Point, at Fort Edward at the German Flats, and went up Lake George with bat-teaux, and first landed on the shore, and shot the first enemy, a rattle-snake.

Our father was a strong Whig in the Revolutionary struggle, as almost all clergymen were. He had great influence among the people, in keeping up the liberty spirit. He would use no foreign tea, but sometimes domestic, such as Judy Goodwin sent down from Hailstown in a long birch box. He once wrote a piece of poetry against the use of tea, and published it. When he built a cider mill, he told Dea. Goodwin he would not shingle it till he knew whether Lord North would have it or not. He let his, and probably his favorite son go to the taking of Burgoyne, and afterwards he went with Capt. Gile to Providence, where he lost his life, much to the grief of his parents; but they consoled themselves with the justice of the cause in which he was engaged. Jabez also went out as a surgeon, on board a privateer.

But I am reminded that I have not time to trouble you further."

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Letter from Hon. Samuel Marshall, of Derry, N. H., member of the N. H. Senate, District No. 3.

DERRY, JUNE 30th, 1849.

ISAAC SMITH, ESQ., *Chairman of Committee of Arrangements:*

I have received with pleasure your letter of invitation to be present on the 4th of July, at the celebration in commemoration of events which have transpired in the town of Hampstead since its settlement. It would give me the greatest pleasure to listen to the Historical Address to be delivered on the occasion, to participate in the other appropriate exercises of the day, and once more to meet those citizens of my native town, who "have strayed away from the old homestead," and will return to unite in paying tribute to the memories of our forefathers. But my engagements are such that I shall be unable to be with you, only in sentiment and feeling.

Permit me to relate to you the tradition that I heard, while on a visit to my friends in Coos County a few years since:

When my Grandfather and Lieut. Edmund Morse of Hampstead, were in Coos on an exploring expedition, they discovered the Notch in the White Mountains, and were the first white men that ever passed through there on the way to Portland.

To show the simplicity of the household furniture of the first settlers,

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\* The one before alluded to, in front of Mr. Sawyer's.

allow me to add, that I have heard my Grandfather say that part of his furniture was a knot bowl with two spoons, (I presume pewter, for I well recollect the old moulds, which are still in existence,) from which he and his wife both eat, at the same time.

Permit me, sir, to propose the following sentiment :

*My Native Town—May Temperance and the social virtues pervade every heart.*

I am with much respect, yours, &c.,  
SAM'L MARSHALL.

Letter from Rev. Jesse B. Davis, of Princeton, N. J.

PRINCETON, JUNE 30, 1849.

ISAAC SMITH, Esq., *Chairman of Committee of Arrangements :*

*Dear Sir :—*The invitation to attend the Centennial Celebration which you have been so kind as to send me, has awakened mingled emotions of regret and pleasure. Of regret, because on account of duties here which demand my constant attention, I cannot be present and participate in the festivities of that interesting occasion.

But of pleasure, because I am informed that those in whose welfare I am interested, the inhabitants of my native place, are to enjoy a season which I am confident will be both pleasant and profitable.

It strikes me as being a very suitable way of turning the glorious Anniversary of our National Independence to good account. The connexion between the two events is by no means obscure, and the recollections which cluster around both of them, are calculated to render the celebration one of peculiar interest. The sons of New England have reason to be proud of their ancestors, those noble men, who lived and acted not for themselves, but for their God, their country, and posterity. They are gone, but their works do follow them. The seed which they have sown has yielded precious fruit.

It will be well to revive the recollection of former days, and of the men of former days, that the present generation may see how the liberty and prosperity which they now enjoy, have been gained, and may learn to value more highly the instructions of religion and learning for which we are largely indebted to our fathers.

Please to extend to the Committee of Arrangements my most sincere and grateful acknowledgments for their kind remembrance of me among the many wanderers who are proud to say that Old Hampstead was our native place. And accept for yourself, my warmest assurances of personal regard. I am, sir,

Very respectfully, yours &c.

J. B. DAVIS.

Letter from Mr. Arthur W. Marshall, now at Valparaiso, Chili, unexpectedly called to sail to South America, about a month sooner than he intended, and thereby prevented from being present at the celebration.

SHIP VISTULA, E. BOSTON, JUNE 26, 1849.

ISAAC SMITH, Esq., *Chairman of Committee of Arrangements :*

*My Dear Sir :—*I have but a moment to spare, but I cannot let the opportunity pass without offering a word for your celebration on the 4th. Though I shall be far away from the home of my childhood, a wanderer



on the pathless ocean, my *thoughts, feelings and sympathies* will be on that day, with the friends of my native town, mingling with their joys, participating in their festivities. The occasion will be one in which every citizen of Hampstead must have a deep interest, for you are assembled for the noble purpose of reviewing the virtuous deeds of our forefathers, of enquiring who bequeathed the blessings we enjoy, and who left us our goodly heritage. As expressive of my feelings on that occasion, allow me to quote the following from one of Moore's beautiful melodies:

“Where'er my path lies, be it gloomy or bright,  
My *soul*, happy friends! shall be with you that night,  
Shall join in your revels, your sports, and your wiles,  
And return to me beaming all o'er with your smiles!  
Too blessed, if it tells me that, 'mid the gay cheer,  
Some kind voice had murmured, “I wish he were here”;  
Let fate do her worst, there are relics of joy,  
Bright dreams of the *past*, which she cannot destroy,  
Which come in the night time of sorrow and care  
And bring back the features that joy used to wear,  
Long, long be my heart with such memories filled,  
Like the vase in which roses have once been distilled,  
You may *break*, you may *ruin* the vase if you will,  
But the scent of the roses will hang round it still.”

I close with the following sentiment:

*Old Hampstead!* May she never be forgotten by any of her children.

With high regard, I am truly yours,

A. W. MARSHALL.

Letter from Mr. Edmund T. Eastman, of Boston, Mass.

BOSTON, JULY 2d, 1849.

ISAAC SMITH, Esq., *Chairman of Committee of Arrangements:*

*Sir:*—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the eighteenth ultimo, extending to me a polite invitation to be present on the 4th inst., at the very appropriate exercises commemorative of the event of the chartering of the “Town of Hampstead, one hundred years ago.”

Permit me, dear sir, to thank you for your kind remembrance, and to assure you and all my fellow townsmen, that it would afford me the highest pleasure and satisfaction to be present on that interesting occasion—but I have exceedingly to regret, that previous engagements, absolutely forbid. Still, you will allow me to flatter myself that in imagination I shall be with you, touched with something of that enthusiasm, pride, and love of one's native town which ought to burn in the breast of every wanderer from the “Homestead,” and which the exercises of that day will be pre-eminently adapted to excite. On that day I will think of those who there began life with me—some of whom are with you—some of whom are far away—*two* that we have bid God-speed over the wide ocean—and some of whom are at rest;—and of the many pleasing and profitable associations of my earlier life. Then, too, will I call to mind what our fathers have told us, of the many “virtues and noble deeds” of their and our ancestors.

In conclusion, allow me to offer the following *wish*, or if you please “sentiment:”

*Hampstead*—May those who wander from her reflect *some* rays of light



upon the escutcheon of their fathers' glory, and do honor to the spot that gave them birth.

Your humble and most obedient servant,

EDMUND T. EASTMAN.

Letter from Mr. Hazen L. Hoyt, of Sturbridge, Mass.

STURBRIDGE, JUNE 30, 1849.

ISAAC SMITH, Esq., *Chairman of Committee of Arrangements* :

*Dear Sir* :—I have received your very kind invitation to return to Old Hampstead, and join in the pleasures of the Celebration on the 4th of July,—but, though my heart will be with you on that occasion, I feel obliged to decline the invitation.

We have a Young Men's Celebration in Sturbridge, and I was chosen and agreed to act as one of the Marshals of the day, previous to the receipt of your letter.

Your obedient servant,

H. L. HOYT.

Letter\* from Rev. Joseph Smith, of Newport, R. I.

NEWPORT, (R. I.) JUNE 24 1849.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS :

*Gentlemen* :—Most sincerely do I regret my inability to comply with your polite invitation to be present at the Centennial Celebration of the settlement of my native town.

The longer I live, the more deeply am I sensible that I owe much, very much, to the place of my birth. And most happy should I be, might my wandering feet, with others, press again the soil, which first they trod, and bear back some tribute of affection and respect. Though more than half of my years have been passed in other places, and amidst other scenes, yet what are other places and other scenes compared with the place of my birth, and the scenes of my youth! To me, the latter, compared with the former, seem like the ever changing, boisterous, foaming waters above, compared with the firm, unchanging, ever-abiding rock that lies deep beneath. Indeed, it seems to me, I am what I am, because I was what I was; and I was what I was, because the place and circumstances of my birth and early life contributed in no small degree to make me such.

Yes! my early, my first earthly home, I love thee still; thy vales and hills, thy fields and forests, thy flowing streams and silvery lakes, thy summer breeze, and thy winter's snow, thy rising and thy setting suns, thy wild flowers that blessed the eye by day, and the stars that crowned thy nights. Yes! I love thee, and praise my maker, that, in such a place, so free from snares, He was pleased to give me being and nurse me into manhood. Yes! I love thee, and ever shall, for there my father sleeps! and brothers!

*My home in the Granite State*—Long may thy glory be, thy Granite men, living pillars, supporting, unmoved, amidst every storm, Christianity, Science, and Good Government.

Respectfully, your friend, and ob't serv't,

JOSEPH SMITH.

\*This and the following letter were received too late to be read at the Celebration, but are inserted here with others.

Letter from Mr. Horatio G. K. Calef, of Boston, Mass.

BOSTON, JULY 3d, (EVENING,) 1849.

ISAAC SMITH, ESQ., *Chairman of Committee of Arrangements* :

*Dear Sir* :—Your polite letter of invitation to unite with my former respected townsmen in the celebration of the first Centennial Anniversary of the Incorporation of the good old Town of Hampstead, was duly received, and until this moment, I had fully purposed to have availed myself of it, and had anticipated much pleasure in participating in the festivities and exercises of the occasion. But I am sorry to say that circumstances beyond my control, render it impracticable.

That the celebration may be pleasant, and long to be remembered, is the wish of, Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

H. G. K. CALEF.

After the reading of letters was concluded, the remainder of the afternoon was taken up in offering sentiments and making short speeches.

No regular toasts were offered upon the occasion, but the President of the Day invited all "to make themselves perfectly at home," as it was a "Home Celebration."\*

ISAAC SMITH, ESQ., offered the following sentiment :

*The City of Boston*—Indebted to New Hampshire for her great men, and to Hampstead for her most successful Authors.

FREDERICK EMERSON, ESQ., of Boston, who had just arrived upon the ground, now came forward, and after apologizing for his late appearance, responded as follows :

*Mr. President and Fellow Townsmen*,—There is not in our whole country another place, which could at this hour, present to my feelings matters of interest to be compared with those which here surround me. As I left the metropolis, a few hours since, the national stars and stripes were floating from the lofty turrets ; glittering columns of soldiery were parading the public streets ; floral processions of school-children were promenading upon the public green ; bells were pealing from every church-tower ; bugles were pouring their music upon the air ; cannons were booming from the heights where first the Patriotic Fathers entrenched in the cause of freedom ; and, to complete the scene, there stood on Bunker Hill, the gigantic pile—erect in solemn grandeur—alike the representative of the past, and the presiding genius of the present. The scene was indeed imposing, and fitly so ; but I left without regret, for my heart was not there—its impulse was homeward. I say, *homeward*, my friends, for, although I have been long absent from among you,

\* The sentiments offered upon the occasion were not preserved, and no minutes were taken of the speeches. The following account is written out entirely from memory.

and every member of my paternal family has either removed elsewhere, or gone down to the silent grave, still the local attachments of childhood and youth are unbroken, and there is no place on earth but Hampstead, that my habitual feelings regard as *home*. The abiding force of early associations is not peculiar to myself—it is common to all, who were duly impressed in early life by the kind offices of parental care. The sentiment is most happily illustrated in the beautiful lines of Sir Walter Scott—

“Breathes there a man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
This is my own, my native land!  
Whose heart hath ne’er within him burned,  
As home his footsteps he hath turned  
From wandering on a foreign strand?  
If such there breathe, go mark him well:  
For him no minstrel raptures swell;  
High though his titles, proud his name,  
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim;  
Despite those titles, power, and pelf,  
The wretch, concentred all in self,  
Living, shall forfeit fair renown,  
And, doubly dying, shall go down  
To the vile dust, from whence he sprung,  
Unwept, unhonored, and unsung.”

It is some thirty years, my friends, since I ceased to be a resident among you; and as I now look around upon the present audience, composed of both sexes and all ages, I am forcibly impressed with the changes that time has wrought upon this community. I see before me the same volunteer company in which I once had the honor of a subaltern command, but no fellow soldier of mine is there—they have all laid down their arms; and the field is taken by another generation. As I direct my attention to the numerous ladies of the assembly, I recognize, here and there, an early acquaintance, who, at the time I left the town, was just emerging from her teens, full of vivacity, ever contributing to the enjoyments of the social circle; and, by the sweetness and chasteness of her manners, unconsciously inspiring the youth of our own sex with generous and manly sentiments. Now, she sits, the sedate matron, sobered, though not saddened by the cares of life. Again, as I turn my eyes upon the Fathers of the town, seated upon this rostrum, I see *one*, and *another*, and *another* venerable man, whom I left in the full strength of his days pursuing the purposes of life, with activity and energy. He is not now, as then. The flakes of time have fallen lightly, but thickly on his head. He retains, indeed, his seat in your councils, but he has given into stronger hands the implements of husbandry, and resigned to more ambitious minds the lead of affairs.

If such changes have been wrought in the lapse of thirty years, what must have been the changes of a century ! I will not go back upon their history—that duty has been ably and adequately performed by my young brother townsman who preceded me ; and I congratulate both you and him, on the universal satisfaction which his services have given.

Mr. President, the town of Hampstead may truly be called a nursery—her sons are to be found, transplanted throughout the country. There is no profession, no department of business, in which they have not engaged, none in which they have not succeeded. I have met them in my travels, have seen them at their homes ; and seldom have I found one, who has not done honor to the place of his origin. Inured in early life to habits of industry and economy, they readily accumulate a competence. Having grown up under the constant influence of a gospel ministry, they are usually found to be in the practice of moral principles, and, not unfrequently, in the exercise of religious faith. With these traits of character to commend them, they seldom fail to be numbered with the valued and respected class of the community in which they reside. After bearing this testimony in favor of the absent sons of Hampstead, allow me, Mr. President, to close with a corresponding sentiment.

*The Fathers and the Mothers of Hampstead*—May the virtues of their Sons and Daughters illuminate the evening of their life.

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2d. By CAPT. JESSE AYER.

*Our Puritan Ancestors*—We glory in being their descendants. May we honor them, by cherishing their principles, and copying their example.

REV. JESSE PAGE, of Atkinson, rose and said :

That he had taken great pleasure in participating in the exercises of the day, and had been highly gratified. He had not the honor of being a native of Hampstead, but he belonged to an adjoining town and his ancestors were intimately connected with the first settlers of Hampstead, and he could claim here many intimate friends. The settlers of the two towns were descendants from the Puritans, and engaged in a common cause.

He regretted the necessity of immediately returning home, and his inability to remain longer. He begged to be excused from speaking longer, and from offering any sentiment. He would, however, express the wish, that the people of Hampstead and Atkinson would continue, as in days past, to imitate the example and cherish the principles of the Puritans.

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3d. *The City of New York*—In the War of the Revolution, earnest



and active to resist oppression. She will be among the last places of America to betray the cause of liberty.

MR. ALBERT L. EASTMAN said,

He supposed the sentiment just offered, was designed for him; that he rose to reply with great reluctance, because his native townsmen knew he was unused to public speaking. His whole life in New York had been devoted to the dry goods business, and however much he might be at home in that line, he felt out of his element in attempting to make his first speech. He could not, however, do less than assure them of his undiminished love for his native town; that as soon as he heard of the proposed celebration, he determined to be present and participate with his fellow townsmen in the festivities of the occasion. As one of the improvements of the age, he would mention that he left New York the evening previous, and on the morning of the 4th, at nine o'clock, found himself again on his native soil. Such speed in travelling, would have seemed incredible to our ancestors in 1749.

In conclusion he would offer as a sentiment,  
The Orator of the Day.

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MR. ISAAC W. SMITH, in responding to this call, said

He had trespassed so long upon their attention in the morning, that he would detain them but a few moments. He accepted the invitation of the Committee, to prepare the address, with great hesitation, for reasons already made known to them.

He said he had never spent his time more pleasantly nor more profitably, than while engaged in making the necessary research for this occasion; that though the result of his investigations was necessarily imperfect, yet he hoped he had been successful in some degree. The history of New England towns is, from the necessity of the case, full of interest. The people, who settled New England were a peculiar people; they came here with the fixed and determined purpose, to establish in the wilderness of America these free institutions of ours. They were guided and influenced in all their acts by their spiritual as well as temporal welfare. They were a far sighted people, and in all their purposes had an eye upon the interests of their children. The same people settled Hampstead, and to their enterprise, and intelligence, and piety, did they owe their prosperity as a town.

Mr. S. said there were many other interesting facts connected with the early history of the town, which could be gathered

together with very little trouble, and suggested the propriety of a more thorough search being made by some one.

The early ruins of the town yet remained. They were constantly to be met with in walks about the place. Interesting facts could be collected of the aged people of the town, fast passing away to the grave; and soon every vestige of the early settlement would be lost. What was done must be done quickly.

Mr. S. further said, that although he had spent the greater part of the last dozen years away from his native place, and might not again reside there, he had lost none of his love for his native town. It was a small quiet, farming town, and was noted for no picturesque scenery, no striking natural views, and for no extensive business operations. But there was his home; in its woods he had roved in his childhood; on its beautiful ponds he had sailed before the cool breezes of summer, and around their shores, participated in the sports of youth; in yonder school-house he had acquired the rudiments of his education, and in later years had been engaged in the pleasing duty of attempting to guide the minds of others in the youthful reachings after knowledge; in yonder churches he had first listened to the preaching of the word of God. In every part of the town, he recognized some familiar object that bound him to this spot in the strongest ties of affection. As the Highland Chief, when he regained his mountain fastnesses, exclaimed,

“My foot is on my native heath,  
And my name is M’Gregor,”

so could he, in the same spirit, exclaim,

“Where’er I roam, whatever realms to see,  
My heart untravel’d fondly turns to thee..”

He acknowledged the honor his fellow townsmen had done him, in assigning to him the most important part upon this occasion. He regretted that reasons before intimated to them, and the inexperience of his youthful years, had not permitted him to make good the place of the gentleman from Boston, who had addressed them a few minutes previous. To the latest hour of his life, he should never cease to remember the kindness of his fellow townsmen towards him, in other instances, besides the present.

Mr. S. concluded with offering the following sentiment:

*The Memory of our Ancestors*—May the remembrance of their noble example incite us to keep the reputation of our native town untarnished in our hands.



4th. By CAPT. JESSE AYER.

*Departed Friends*—As we love to cherish their memories, may we emulate their excellencies.

Anthem by the Choir.

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5th. By REV. MR. BARTLEY.

*The Aged Ladies and Gentlemen in Hampstead*—May they receive the veneration, sympathy and affection of the young, and close their earthly pilgrimage in peace.

Anthem, by the Choir.

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6th. By ISAAC SMITH, ESQ.

*The Granite State*—She has furnished to the city of Boston many of her most successful merchants.

The audience looked to J. S. Clement, Esq., of Boston, to respond to this sentiment. Mr. Emerson, of Boston, went across the stage to Mr. Clement and told him he must speak.

MR. CLEMENT came forward to the desk, and said :

When the gentleman from Boston attempted to do anything, he knew it would be impossible to resist him. He seemed determined to make him (Mr. C.) speak. And he might as well surrender first, as last, like the Kentucky coon when he saw Davy Crockett preparing to shoot. But he felt encouraged to speak, by the approving smiles he saw upon the faces of those whom he was attempting to address. (Laughter.)

Mr. Clement said he accepted an invitation from his friend, (Mr. Isaac Smith,) to be present, and had not entertained the remotest idea of making a speech ; even a few moments before, during the intermission, he had positively refused. Like his friend from New York, (Mr. Eastman,) he had been engaged all his life in the dry goods business, and if people would hear him talk they must go to Boston and buy goods of him, where he could talk fast enough, as their townsmen, (Messrs. Ordway and Smith,) could testify.

Mr. C. said he was not a native of Hampstead, but he was proud to say that he was a native of the Old Granite State, and he felt for his native State all the love and veneration that a son should feel for the land of his nativity. He said that on looking over the town records the evening previous, he was struck with the neatness and uniformity with which they had been kept. He doubted whether many other towns in the State could exhibit such perfect records ; and town clerks in modern times, with all the increased facilities of better paper and writing utensils,

might feel proud to equal the neatness and correctness of the records of the first officers of Hampstead.

Mr. C. spoke of the pleasure he had had, in being present at this Celebration. To his mind, such social gatherings were in exact accordance with the spirit of our Republican Institutions. The people of all ages and ranks, of each sex and of every sect and party, could unite, as on that day, in celebrating an event in which all had a common interest. The manner of their celebration, was, in his opinion, most appropriate. In no way could the citizens of Hampstead commemorate the simplicity and unpretending acts of their ancestors, as by the exercises of that day. He congratulated them on the unanimity and harmony that had characterized their celebration, and expressed the hope that they would always be as fortunate in their public acts.

Mr. C. offered as a sentiment :

*Union Celebrations*—A union of the people and a union of the States.

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Mr. Emerson facetiously remarked, that there was one union he had neglected to mention, viz: *a union of the sexes*. Mr. C. replied, that his friend should not be permitted to apply that remark to him, inasmuch as the gentleman himself was given over by the ladies as incorrigible. (Laughter.)

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7th. *Our Invited Guests from abroad*—Our ancestors were alike distinguished for the firmness with which they maintained the cause of Religion, of Education, and of Liberty ;—we welcome their descendants as those who are bound with us in the ties of mutual sympathy and a common cause.

MR. WILLIAM C. TODD, of Atkinson, N. H., and Preceptor of the Atkinson Academy, replied nearly as follows :

He regretted that his esteemed pastor was not there to express for the many citizens of Atkinson, whom he saw present, the pleasure they all felt in being with the people of Hampstead that day. For himself, he had declined an invitation to go elsewhere, for when he heard of their contemplated celebration, he determined no slight obstacle should prevent his attendance. He had been too well acquainted with many of the young men that had gone out from Hampstead, not to take a deep interest in the town and whatever relates to its history. With him who had so deeply interested them that day, as he reviewed the events and the changes of the last century, in their midst, he had been long acquainted. In early years they had met as students of Atkinson Academy, and years after, he felt no little pleasure in renewing the friendship in the Halls of

Dartmouth College. He was well acquainted, too, with him whose name had just been mentioned, and who was then tossed about upon the bosom of the deep. Though absent bodily, they all well knew his heart was there, at that moment hovering over the play-grounds of his youth. He hoped that prosperity and complete restoration to health would attend him, in the distant land to which he was bound. With other young men from this place, Mr. T. had been on terms of intimacy, and had known no one not worthy of esteem and confidence.

Mr. T. said a celebration of this kind always appeared to him, peculiarly interesting and profitable. One hundred years ago, this whole vicinity was little better than a wilderness, and now by the blessings of a kind Providence, we dwell in a land, than which, the sun, in his whole course, shines upon none more happy. We, that live here, are much blessed. He had spent some years out of New England, but had always returned with a deeper attachment for his native section.

We have not the inexhaustible fertility of the West, its vast prairies and boundless forests, nor the "ever during" verdure of the "bright and sunny South;" but our agreeable succession of hills and valleys charms the eye in summer; and if a stranger objects to the deep snows and storms of a New England winter, if he will enter our dwellings, the warmth of his welcome, and the comforts around him, will soon teach him to forget that the thermometer without ever sinks to zero.

He had visited also our "Father-land," and seen something of the splendor of the mightiest kingdom of Europe. Yet after having gazed on the face of "Her Majesty," he was well convinced if one wished to see *Queens*, he must come to New England on some occasion like the present. There is much, indeed, to charm the mind, in treading the Halls of such a magnificent palace as Windsor Castle, where kings have dwelt for nearly a thousand years; in visiting Universities, whose gray, old walls seem as ancient as the Greek of Homer; in gazing upon costly Cathedrals, and splendid works of Art, which every where abound in England. We have none such with us. Yet what is of far more importance, we have no such beggary and abject wretchedness, as make the American sick at heart, because he sees them there for the first time. Men and women, healthy and willing to labor, yet asking charity, for want of employment, meet the traveller at every town in some countries of the Old World. They live where the interest of the few is jealously watched, the rights of the masses little regarded.—They have no *Independence* there to celebrate, though if they had, they would hardly be able to find a more beautiful grove

to assemble in, nor fairer hands to arrange it with better taste, than has been manifested here to-day.

On this occasion, then, when we have met to celebrate the Anniversary of our Independence, to hear due justice done to the memory of deceased citizens of this town, and listen to the voices of living sons, who have come back to their native town, let us not forget to be thankful, all, that "the lines have," indeed, "fallen to us in pleasant places."

Mr. Todd concluded by remarking that after what he had said, he could, perhaps, offer no more fitting sentiment than :

*New England, and the People of New England*—There is no land better than ours, no people happier than our people.

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8th. *The Davis Grove*—A beautiful spot, endeared to us by the cheerfulness and pleasure with which its venerable owner has consecrated it to the public, on such occasions as the present. May we never cease to remember the exemplary life he has always led, nor forget his virtues and good deeds, when he shall be gathered to his fathers.

MR. JESSE DAVIS, a venerable man of more than four score years, came forward and acknowledged the compliment in a brief and effective manner, that touched the hearts of all who heard him.

He spoke as follows :

*Fellow-Citizens*,—I am an old man,—probably the oldest native citizen now present. I have a distinct recollection of the scenes of the Revolution,—of the trials and sacrifices made by the Patriots of Hampstead. Little did I think at the time what glorious results would follow.

It was surely befitting this occasion, to commence with prayer to Almighty God, and Thanksgiving to His name for His great goodness to our land.

I have but little time to remain here. But I shall leave my best wishes and sincerest prayers for the temporal and spiritual prosperity of those who shall survive, and who shall come after me.

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REV. MR. BARTLEY spoke of the duties and responsibilities of the rising generation, and offered as a sentiment :

*The Youth and Children in Hampstead*—May Heavenly wisdom be their guide, in whose right hand is length of days, and in whose left hand are riches and honor.

Hymn by the JUVENILE CHOIR.

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9th. Sentiment by DEA. JOSHUA EASTMAN, complimentary to the military command under Capt. Stickney.



Many other sentiments were offered and remarks made by other gentlemen present, but, unfortunately no record was made of them at the time, and it has become impossible to recall them. For the same reason, the preceding account is necessarily incomplete. At different intervals the exercises were varied by music from the Band, or Songs from the Choir.

At five o'clock the PRESIDENT announced that the exercises were nearly ended, and would close with a sentiment complimentary to the ladies.

10th. MR. I. W. SMITH said he had been requested to make some public acknowledgement in behalf of the Gentlemen, to the Ladies, for the beautiful, but modest manner in which they had decorated the Grove; for the good taste they had displayed in all their arrangements, and for the interest they had taken in the celebration.

He said he cheerfully complied with the request and could not pay them a better compliment than to announce a sentiment sent in by a gentleman from a neighboring State, who married a Hampstead girl, but was unable to be present himself, and had sent his wife.

*The Ladies of Hampstead*—If correctly represented abroad, they make most exemplary wives, and deserve to receive, every one, a husband.

The meeting then adjourned, amid the utmost satisfaction and good feeling. The day was as pleasant and comfortable as the most eager could desire. Every arrangement was carried out to the satisfaction of all; nothing happening during the day to mar the enjoyment of any one.

The number present was variously estimated from ten to fifteen hundred; it did not probably much exceed twelve hundred. The population of the town is about nine hundred. Allowing six hundred of its inhabitants to be present, the remaining six hundred were composed of strangers from abroad, most of whom were natives of the town, or had formerly resided within its limits.

It was announced by the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, that it might be of interest to some to learn, that one of the roses sent in by Mr. Amasa Eastman to be placed upon the Speaker's desk, grew upon a bush, in his yard, over one hundred years old.

Probably on no occasion, were so many of the natives of Hampstead ever before assembled. The opportunity was embraced to renew old acquaintances and form new ones. Not only was it the source of profit and gratification, to those present, but every one went away with an increased love for the town of his nativity, or adoption.

Old friends and acquaintances were again brought together, face to face, to recount the scenes enacted in "days of auld lang syne." The sports of childhood, the happy hours passed in the district school house and on the village play-ground, the plans of youth, the fate of companions of former days, the untimely death of intimate friends,—formed the theme of many a conversation; the silent tear, upon the cheek marked with the traces of care and affliction, betrayed the emotions of the heart; or the pleasant smile and laughing eye, revealed a life of pleasure and of joy,—where the hand of time had passed lightly over the dearest objects of the affections.

The mind run rapidly back through the last century and reviewed the changes that had taken place in the town. The events of the past came up in successive array before the minds of the assemblage, and the acts and motives of the men who preceded them, were quickly scanned. And then the imagination looked forward into the future; the wondrous changes yearly effected in governments, science and commerce, imposed no limits to its range. What would be the condition of our native town in 1949, none dared predict. All indulged the hope that its citizens, in every act, would study the example of its first settlers, and that the present generation would so discharge its duties, that in after years our children's children might point to our lives and our example, and say that their fathers did not live for themselves alone, that they did not exist for the moment, but looked forward to the future.

The next Centennial Celebration will find all of that assemblage quietly sleeping in their graves. One by one, as *their* ancestors went down to the grave, will they leave these places, and long before the next one hundred years shall have passed by, the last one will be gathered to his fathers.

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# A LIST OF THE TOWN OFFICERS OF HAMPSTEAD, SINCE ITS INCORPORATION.

TAKEN FROM THE TOWN RECORDS.

The first meeting was held February 7th, 1749. There is no record of any annual meeting in March 1749, and as the records are otherwise full and complete, it is to be inferred that there was none held, but that the officers chosen Feb'y 7th, at the organization of the town government under the Charter, held their offices till the annual meeting in March, 1750.

## MODERATORS.

In the following list, the names of those persons who acted as Moderators at the annual town meetings, are placed in *italics*. In twelve instances the names of the Moderators elected were not recorded. It will be seen that two hundred and fifty-two meetings have been held since the town was incorporated. The figures, appended to the following names, denote the number of times that each individual has acted as Moderator. The order of the priority of their election has been observed, though it will readily occur to every one, that, in hardly any instance, were their respective elections effected at successive meetings.

<i>Daniel Little</i> , - - - 7	<i>John Muzzey</i> , - - - 3
<i>John Johnson</i> , - - - 1	<i>Joseph French</i> , - - - 2
<i>Richard Hazzen</i> , - - - 4	<i>Benjamin Emerson</i> , - - - 5
<i>Ebenezer Gile</i> , - - - 8	<i>Jonathan Carlton</i> , - - - 8
<i>Moses Hale</i> , - - - 1	<i>Samuel Little</i> , - - - 12
<i>Peter Morse</i> , - - - 3	<i>John Atwood</i> , - - - 1
<i>John Webster</i> , - - - 9	<i>Edmund Mooers</i> , - - - 7
<i>Jacob Bayley</i> , - - - 2	<i>John Calfe</i> , - - - 55

William Moulton, . . . 1	Jesse Gordon, . . . 5
Moses Little, . . . 3	Tappan Eastman, . . . 4
John Bond, . . . 1	Samuel Marshall, . . . 1
William Marshall, . . . 4	Moses Hoyt, . . . 20
John Hogg, . . . 2	A. B. Marshall, . . . 1
Thomas Muzzey, . . . 1	Isaiah P. Moody, . . . 1
Timothy Goodwin, . . . 1	Lorenzo Batchelder, . . . 4
David Moulton, . . . 15	Isaac Smith, . . . 1
John True, . . . 6	Josiah C. Eastman, . . . 7
Jabez Hoyt, . . . 2	Amos Buck, . . . 3
Jacob Kimball, . . . 25	Enos Colby, . . . 1
John Emerson, . . . 1	Isaac W. Smith, . . . 2

## TOWN CLERKS.

Peter Eastman, . . . . .	from 1749 to 1766
Benjamin Little, jr., . . . . .	" 1766 " 1768
Peter Eastman, . . . . .	" 1768 " 1776
Jonathan Eastman, . . . . .	" 1776 " 1780
Eliphalet Poor,* . . . . .	" 1780 " 1786
John True, . . . . .	" 1786 " 1798
— — —,† . . . . .	" 1798 " 1799
John True, . . . . .	" 1799 " 1806
James Knight, . . . . .	" 1806 " 1807
John True, . . . . .	" 1807 " 1809
James Knight, . . . . .	" 1809 " 1811
Nathaniel Little, . . . . .	" 1811 " 1825
Isaac Smith, . . . . .	" 1825 " 1832
Warren L. Lane, . . . . .	" 1832 " 1835
A. B. Marshall, . . . . .	" 1835 " 1839
Amos M. Merrill, . . . . .	" 1839 " 1841
Benj. A. Moody, . . . . .	" 1841 " 1842
A. B. Marshall, . . . . .	" 1842 " 1846
Henry Putnam, . . . . .	" 1846 " 1849
Nathaniel C. Smith, . . . . .	" 1849 "

## SELECTMEN.

1749. John Johnson, Peter Morse, George Little, Jacob Bayley, Stephen Johnson, jr.  
 1750. John Johnson, John Webster, Benj. Emerson, James Graves, John Muzzey.  
 1751. Peter Morse, Daniel Little, John Hunkins.

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\* Resigned in April 1786, and John True chosen his successor.

† No record of any being chosen.

1752. Moses Hale, Richard Hazzen, John Johnson.
1753. Stephen Emerson, Benj. Philbrick, Nath'l Heath.
1754. Moses Copps, Samuel Hadley, Jeremiah Eaton.
1755. Benj. Emerson, John Muzzey, John Mooers.
1756. George Little, James Graves, Jacob Bayley.
1757. John Muzzey, Daniel Little, Benj. Kimball.
1758. Edmund Sawyer, John Muzzey, John Hazzen.
1759. Edmund Morse, John Johnson, John Muzzey.
1760. Peter Eastman, William Marshall, John Johnson.
1761. Jacob Bayley, John Muzzey,\* Benj. Emerson.
1762. Jacob Bayley, John Webster, John Muzzey.
1763. Joseph French, Reuben Harriman, John Muzzey.
1764. John Muzzey, Joseph French, Reuben Harriman.
1765. John Muzzey, Joseph French, Reuben Harriman.
1766. John Webster, Joseph French, Samuel Currier.
1767. John Webster, Joseph French, Reuben Harriman.
1768. Benj. Little, Samuel Little, John Muzzey.
1769. John Calfe, Reuben Harriman, Joseph French, jr.
1770. Peter Eastman, Joseph French, jr., John Calfe.
1771. Benj. Little, Thos. Wadley, Ephraim Webster.
1772. Benj. Little, Ephraim Webster, Thomas Wadley.
1773. Thomas Wadley, John Calfe, Bartholomew Heath.
1774. John Calfe, Thos. Wadley, Samuel Little.
1775. William Moulton, John Atwood, John Calfe.
1776. Samuel Little, Thos. Wadley, John Atwood.
1777. Jona. Eastman, Edmund Mooers, Abner Little.
1778. Samuel Little, Abner Little, John Harriman.
1779. Edmund Mooers, Eliphalet Poor, Abner Rogers.
1780. John Calfe, Timothy Goodwin, Abner Rogers.
1781. John Calfe, Job Kent, Moses Little.
1782. John Calfe, Timothy Goodwin, James Huse.
1783. Timothy Goodwin, Abner Rogers, Robert Emerson.
1784. Jesse Johnson,† Eliphalet Poor,† John Harriman, Job Kent,‡ Moses Little.‡
1785. Jesse Johnson, John Bond, Benj. Emerson, jr.
1786. John Calfe, Edmund Mooers, David Moulton.
1787. John Calfe, David Moulton, John Harriman.
1788. John Calfe, David Moulton, John Harriman.
1789. Wm. Marshall, John True, James Huse.
1790. Joseph French, David Poor, Edmund Mooers.
1791. Wm. Marshall, Thomas Muzzey, John True.
1792. Wm. Marshall, Dudley Kimball, Jona. Little.
1793. Dudley Kimball, John True, Jona. Little.

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\* Declined. Wait Stevens chosen in April.

† Resigned and excused.

‡ In place of first two.

1794. Wm. Marshall, Moses Little, Thos. Muzzey.  
 1795. John Hogg, Ebenezer Hoyt, Micajah Little.  
 1796. John Calfe, John True, Moses Williams.  
 1797. John Calfe, John True, Moses Williams.  
 1798. John True, James Atwood, Jona. Little.  
 1799. David Moulton, John True, Jona. Eastman.  
 1800. David Moulton, John True, Jonathan Eastman.  
 1801. John True, Jona. Little, Jona. C. Little.  
 1802. John True, Jona. Little, Joseph Welch.  
 1803. John True, David Moulton, James Brickett.  
 1804. David Moulton, Jona. C. Little, Samuel Morse.  
 1805. John True, Thomas Muzzey, David Moulton.  
 1806. Sammel Morse, Nath'l Little, Jacob Kimball.  
 1807. John True, James Knight, Jona. E. Wadley.  
 1808. Jona. E. Wadley, Jabez Hoit, jr., Nath'l Little.  
 1809. Nath'l Little, Samuel Morse, Jacob Kimball.  
 1810. Samuel Morse, Joshua Sawyer, Joseph Brickett.  
 1811. Jona. Little, Joshua Sawyer, Hezekiah Ayer.  
 1812. Joshua Sawyer, Joseph Brickett, Samuel Morse.  
 1813. Nathaniel Little, Jona. C. Little, Jona. Little.  
 1814. Nath'l Little, James Knight, Stephen Webster.  
 1815. Nath'l Little, John Emerson, jr., John True.  
 1816. Nath'l Little, jr., John Emerson, jr., James Calef.  
 1817. Nath'l Little, jr., James Knight, Caleb H. Moulton.  
 1818. Nath'l Little, jr., James Knight, Edward Noyes.  
 1819. Nath'l Little, jr., John Heath, Jesse Gordon.  
 1820. Nath'l Little, jr., Caleb Harriman, Samuel Marshall.  
 1821. Nath'l Little, jr., Samuel Smith, Jesse Gordon.  
 1822. Nath'l Little, jr., Jesse Gordon, Joshua Eastman, jr.,\*  
     Lorenzo Batchelder.†  
 1823. Jesse Gordon, Sam'l Marshall, Lorenzo Batchelder.  
 1824. Nath'l Little, jr., Jesse Gordon, Sam'l Marshall.  
 1825. Jesse Gordon, Moses Hoyt, Benj. B. Garland.  
 1826. Nath'l Little, jr., Moses Hoyt, Benj. B. Garland.  
 1827. Jesse Gordon, Moses Hoyt, John Ordway, jr.  
 1828. Moses Hoyt, John Ordway, jr., Humphrey C. Cogswell.  
 1829. Moses Hoyt, Jesse Gordon, James Gibson.  
 1830. Lorenzo Batchelder, James Gibson, True W. Taylor.  
 1831. John Ordway, jr., Joshua Eastman, jr., Stephen Little.  
 1832. Samuel Morse, Andrew B. Marshall, Joseph P. Shannon.  
 1833. Moses Hoyt, A. B. Marshall, Joseph P. Shannon.

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\* Resigned.

† Elected April 8th in place of J. E., jr.

1834. Moses Hoyt, A. B. Marshall, Isaac Heath.  
 1835. Joseph P. Shannon, Isaac Heath, James Hadley.  
 1836. Joseph P. Shannon, John Ordway, James Hadley.  
 1837. Joseph P. Shannon, Moses Hoyt, Samuel Nichols.  
 1838. Warren L. Lane, Isaac Heath, Amos Buck.  
 1839. Amos Buck, Moses Hoyt, A. B. Marshall.  
 1840. Moses Hoyt, A. B. Marshall, Isaac Heath.  
 1841. Amos Buck, Joseph P. Shannon, Jonathan Williams.  
 1842. Amos Buck, Jonathan Williams, James Smith.  
 1843. Enos Colby, Caleb Moulton, Richard K. Brickett.  
 1844. Isaac Smith, A. B. Marshall, Joseph P. Shannon.  
 1845. Amos Buck, Joseph P. Shannon, A. B. Marshall.  
 1846. Moses Hoyt, Isaac Smith, Amos Ring.  
 1847. Moses Hoyt, Isaac Smith, Caleb Moulton.  
 1848. Caleb Moulton, Isaac Heath, Joseph P. Shannon.  
 1849. Amos Buck, Samuel Morse, James Smith.

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MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRSSS,

Which assembled in 1775, at Exeter, and afterwards either at Exeter, Portsmouth or Concord:

Samuel Little, April 1775.

Jonathan Carlton, May 1775.

John Calfe, December, 1775.

Samuel Little, December, 1776.

John Calfe, from December, 1777, to December, 1784.

The records of the town do not show that any one was elected after December 1783. A limited search among the records in the office of the Secretary of State did not give any additional information. If the compiler had had sufficient time, it is probable that a more thorough search would have enabled him to complete the above list. The Provincial Congress held five sessions in 1777 and 1778, four in 1779, and two in 1780, 1781 and 1782.

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HON. JOHN CALFE was Delegate from Hampstead, to the Convention to ratify the Constitution of the United States, held at Exeter on the second Wednesday of February 1788.

He was also Secretary of the Convention to amend the Constitution of New Hampshire in 1792.

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REPRESENTATIVES UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.

Voted not to send - - - from 1787\* to 1792.

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\* Leave was granted, by the General Court, to Hampstead to send a Representative in 1787.



William Marshall,	-	-	-	from 1792 to 1793
John Hogg,	-	-	-	" 1793 " 1795
John True,	-	-	-	" 1795 " 1802
David Moulton,	-	-	-	" 1802 " 1803
John True,	-	-	-	" 1803 " 1804
Jacob Kimball,	-	-	-	" 1804 " 1806
Thomas Muzzey,	-	-	-	" 1806 " 1807
John True,	-	-	-	" 1807 " 1809
Jonathan Little,	-	-	-	" 1809 " 1810
Isaac Noyes,	-	-	-	" 1810 " 1811
Jonathan Little,	-	-	-	" 1811 " 1812
Isaac Noyes,	-	-	-	" 1812 " 1813
John True,	-	-	-	" 1813 " 1814
Jacob Kimball,	-	-	-	" 1814 " 1815
Jonathan Little,	-	-	-	" 1815 " 1816
John True,	-	-	-	" 1816 " 1817
— — —,	-	-	-	" 1817 " 1819
Jacob Kimball,	-	-	-	" 1819 " 1820
James Knight,	-	-	-	" 1820 " 1821
Jesse Gordon,	-	-	-	" 1821 " 1823
James Knight,	-	-	-	" 1823 " 1824
Jesse Gordon,	-	-	-	" 1824 " 1825
— — —,	-	-	-	" 1825 " 1826
Jesse Gordon,	-	-	-	" 1826 " 1827
Samuel Marshall,	-	-	-	" 1827 " 1828
Jesse Gordon,	-	-	-	" 1828 " 1829
Moses Hoyt,	-	-	-	" 1829 " 1831
— — —,	-	-	-	" 1831 " 1832
Lorenzo Batchelder,	-	-	-	" 1832 " 1835
Moses Hoyt,	-	-	-	" 1835 " 1836
A. B. Marshall,	-	-	-	" 1836 " 1839
Warren L. Lane,	-	-	-	" 1839 " 1841
Lorenzo Batchelder,	-	-	-	" 1841 " 1842
Joseph P. Shannon,	-	-	-	" 1842 " 1844
Isaac Heath,	-	-	-	" 1844 " 1846
John Ordway,	-	-	-	" 1846 " 1847
Josiah C. Eastman,	-	-	-	" 1847 "

#### COMMITTEES OF INSPECTION,

Chosen during the War of the Revolution.

Dec. 1774. John Webster, Samuel Little, Joseph French, John Calfe, Benjamin Little.

March 1776. Samuel Little, William Moulton, Edmund Morse, Benjamin Little, William George.

March 1777. Joseph French, Jacob Currier.



June 1777. Joseph French, Thomas Wadley, Benjamin Little, Benjamin Emerson, jr., Jacob Currier.

March 1778. Samuel Little, Joseph French, Benjamin Emerson, jr.

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COMMITTEES.

"Committee to regulate trade," chosen in pursuance of the recommendation of the Legislature.

June 1777. Hezekiah Hutchins, Bartholomew Heath, Timothy Goodwin, William Moulton, Jesse Johnson.

Committee to provide for the families of soldiers from Hampstead in the army :

February, 1778. Thomas Wadley, Benjamin Emerson, jr., Edmund Mooers.

June 1778. Samuel Little, Abner Little, John Harriman.

Committee to enlist soldiers.

March 1778. Samuel Little, Abner Little John Harriman.

June 1779. Edmund Mooers, Eliphalet Poor, Abner Rogers.

July 1779. Hezekiah Hutchins, Moses Little.

June 1780. Bartholomew Heath, Timothy Goodwin, Abner Little.

February 1781. John Calfe, Job Kent, Moses Little.

March 1781. John Calfe, Timothy Goodwin, James Huse.

"Committee for regulating the prices of sundry articles of trade and manufacture, and the produce of husbandry, &c." raised in accordance with a recommendation from the town of Portsmouth.

July 1779. Edmund Mooers, John Calfe, Wm. Moulton.

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SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.\*

1801. John Kelly, John Calfe, True Kimball.

1802. John Calfe, True Kimball, John True.

1803. John Kelly, True Kimball, John Calfe.

1809 to 1815. True Kimball, John Kelly, John True.

1815. Nathaniel Little, John Emerson, jr., John True.

1816. John Kelly, True Kimball, James Knight.

1817. John Kelly, Jeremiah Spofford, James Knight.

1818 to 1821. John Kelly, Isaac Tewksbury, jr., John True.

1821. Nathaniel Little, Samuel Smith, Jesse Gordon.

1822. John Kelly, James Knight, John True, Isaac Tewksbury.

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\* The record of the School Committees is very incomplete. The above are all the names the records contain.

1823. John Kelly, John True, Samuel Marshall.  
 1824. John Kelly, Isaac Tewksbury, James Knight.  
 1825. John Kelly, Samuel Morse, Isaac Tewksbury.  
 1826. John Kelly, Samuel Marshall, Jesse Gordon.  
 1827. John Kelly, James Calef, Isaac Tewksbury.  
 1839. John M. C. Bartley, B. B. Bunker, Josiah C. Eastman.  
 1842 to 1844. J. M. C. Bartley, Isaac Smith, Josiah C. Eastman.  
 1844. J. M. C. Bartley, Isaac Tewksbury, A. B. Marshall.  
 1845. J. M. C. Bartley, James Calef, Benj. B. Garland.  
 1846. J. M. C. Bartley, A. B. Marshall, Caleb Moulton.  
 1847. J. M. C. Bartley, A. B. Marshall, James Calef.  
 1848. J. M. C. Bartley, Josiah C. Eastman, A. B. Marshall.  
 1849. J. M. C. Bartley, Isaac Smith, Arthur W. Marshall.
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## RELIGIOUS.

It is not known when the Congregational Society, (the only one in town that maintains regular preaching,) was formed; probably soon after the first settlement of the town. In the warrant for the first town meeting in 1749, articles were inserted for taking action upon the subject of repairing the *New Meeting House*, and for securing a minister.

The Congregational Church was organized June 3d, 1752. The Articles of Faith adopted by the Church at that time, and the Covenant, are substantially the same as those adopted by Congregational Churches generally. They were drawn from what is called the *Cambridge Platform*.

Their present house of worship was built in 1837, at an expense of about three thousand dollars.

The Church when first formed contained sixty-eight members.

The present number of communicants is ninety-five; males, thirty-five; females, fifty-eight.

The Pastors of the Church have been as follows:

REV. HENRY TRUE, Ordained June 24th, 1752. Died May 22d, 1782.

REV. JOHN KELLY, Ordained December 5th, 1792. Dismissed October 12th, 1836.

REV. JOHN M. C. BARTLEY, Installed October 12th, 1836.

The names of those who have filled the office of Deacon, are found in the list of prominent men, on p. 35 of the address.

The present officers of the Church are as follows:

REV. J. M. C. BARTLEY, *Pastor*, Installed Oct. 12th, 1836.

JONATHAN KENT, *Deacon*, Elected December 23d, 1824.

JOSHUA EASTMAN, " " November 24th, 1848.

Other denominations in town have preaching occasionally, in the old meeting house, but no other denomination is numerous enough to support preaching every Sabbath.

REV. BENJAMIN B. BUNKER was ordained over the Society of the Universalists, in 1838. He preached to them for two years, and then removed to New Market. Since that time they have had preaching only occasionally. All denominations generally attend Rev. Mr. Bartley's meeting.

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#### PROFESSIONAL.

Rev. Mr. Kelly, in his "Sketch of Hampstead," says "the town has never sustained a lawyer." Isaiah P. Moody, Esq., of York, Maine, resided in the town a few years since, and was esteemed very highly. But becoming wearied with the practice of the law, retired to his native town to engage in the more honorable and profitable vocation of farming.

The Physicians who have resided in this place are John Bond, his son John Bond jr., Samuel Flagg, Joshua Sawyer, James Knight, Jeremiah Spofford, Isaac Tewksbury, Jerome Harris, M. D., and Josiah C. Eastman, M. D.

"None of these were favored with a liberal education. Two or three others have had a transient residence here, but they are all," either dead or removed from the place, except Drs. Knight and Eastman. The latter is the practicing physician, resident in town. Dr. Knight has long been out of practice, and, though more than four score years old, yet retains in a remarkable degree, the strength and vigor of manhood.

"Dr. Bond, senior, was an early member of the N. H. Medical Society, and was a very respectable and devout man; and though feeble in health for many years, he lived to be eighty-six years old, and died January 4th, 1804, in a happy frame of mind."

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Of those who were born, or brought up in this town, the following have received a liberal education :

#### AT HARVARD COLLEGE.

JAMES TRUE, son of Rev. Henry True; graduated in 1780. He occasionally preached. Died in 1795, aged 35 years.

EZEKIEL LITTLE; graduated in 1784. He was for 20 years a teacher in Boston. He was the author of an Arithmetic. Died in Atkinson 183-, aged about 80 years.

JABEZ KIMBALL; graduated in 1797. He was one year a tutor: studied Law, and practised at Haverhill, Mass. Died there March 19th, 1805, aged 33.

ABNER ROGERS ; graduated in 1800. Attorney at Law in Charlestown, Mass. Died in February, 1814, aged 37.

ROBERT ROGERS ; graduated in 1802. For a long time a Merchant in France. In 1835 he was a resident in Boston.

EDMUND TUCKER EASTMAN ; graduated in 1846. Student of Medicine in Boston, Mass.

#### AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.

HENRY TRUE, son of Rev. Henry True ; graduated in 1796. For many years a Minister of the Gospel in Union, Maine, where he still resides.

BENJAMIN DUDLEY EMERSON, son of Col. Benjamin Emerson ; graduated in 1805. For many years teacher in Newburyport, and Boston. He is the author of the National Spelling Book and of Emerson's Reading Books. He resides now in Roxbury, Mass.

ABNER EMERSON, brother of the preceding ; graduated in 1805. Died at Charlestown, Mass., December 1836, aged 51.

THOMAS WILLIAMS ; graduated in 1815. Physician at Canandaigua, N. Y. Received also the degree of M. D. at Dartmouth College.

HENRY TRUE KELLY, son of Rev. John Kelly ; graduated in 1819. Minister at Madison, Geauga County, Ohio. Died at ———, in Canada, in 1843, aged about 40 years.

JONATHAN KNIGHT LITTLE ; graduated in 1823. Student of Medicine, and died young.

ARTHUR WARD MARSHALL ; graduated in 1846. Teacher at Valparaiso, Chili, S. A.

ISAAC WILLIAM SMITH ; graduated in 1846. Student at Law, in Manchester, N. H.

#### AT WILLIAMS COLLEGE.

JOHN KELLY, son of Rev. John Kelly ; graduated in 1825. Studied Medicine at the Medical College, in Fairfield, N. Y. Resides in Fultonville, N. Y.

#### AT UNION COLLEGE.

FRANCIS WELCH ; graduated in 1832. Ordained a Minister at Brentwood, N. H., in December, 1833. Resides near Eastport, Me.

#### AT BROWN UNIVERSITY.

JOSEPH SMITH ; graduated in 1837. Ordained at Woonsocket, R. I., September 27th, 1837, and continued there four years. Settled over the Baptist Church in Newport, R. I., nearly nine years. Resides at present in Woonsocket, R. I.

#### AT COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY.

ELBRIDGE GERRY LITTLE ; graduated in 1845. Ordained a Minister over the Church in Manayunk, Pa., in 1848.



JESSE BROOKS DAVIS; graduated in 1846. Ordained a Minister over the Church in Plattsburg, N. ~~X~~, in Nov. 1849. 2

#### DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

The number of Districts is seven. The amount of money appropriated in 1849, was \$492,33. The whole number of scholars attending was 203. The number of scholars in each district and the amount of money expended in each is as follows:

<i>No. of Dist.</i>	<i>No. of Scholars.</i>	<i>Amt. of Money Expended.</i>
1	23	\$84,28
2	53	113,32
3	40	59,53
4	33	91,02
5	20	41,98
6	12	47,65
7	22	54,55
	203	\$492,33

A Superintending School Committee, appointed annually, examine all the teachers, visit all the schools twice each term, and make a report at the annual meeting in March.

#### MORTALITY.

For the first eighteen years there is no record of deaths. For the next six years only a few are recorded. The full record commences in 1752. It was kept by Rev. Henry True, and was continued by his son John True, Esq., and by Rev. John Kelly to the close of the year 1846, and since then by Rev. J. M. C. Bartley. The whole number of deaths recorded, from 1746 to Jan'y 1, 1849, is 1128. The greatest number of deaths was in 1756 and amounted to 30. In 1758, only 8 died: in 1786, 1805 and 1807, only 5 each year, died; in 1761, 4 died; in 1746, 1751 and 1783, only one died each year. The annual average number of deaths is 11; the proportion to the population is one in 81 annually. "The first person buried in the Centre Burial Place, was Mr. Hadley, drowned in the Island Pond."

List of aged people who have lived and died in Hampstead, having arrived at the age of 90 years and upwards.

Mr. Stephen Johnson, - - -	died in 1769 aged 91
Widow Davis, - - -	" 1770 " 94
Widow Sarah Emerson, - - -	" 1770 " 90
Capt. Jona. Carlton, - - -	" 1794 " 94



Dea. Joseph French,	-	-	died in 1794	aged 93
John Hogg, Esq.,	-	-	" 1795	" 91
Widow of John Hogg, Esq.,	-	-	" 1796	" 92
Widow Eleanor Copps,	-	-	" 1801	" 92
Mr. Samuel Johnson,	-	-	" 1801	" 90
Widow Mary Carlton,	-	-	" 1803	" 90
Widow Hannah Brown,	-	-	" 1804	" 90
Widow Hannah Eastman,	-	-	" 1806	" 91
Widow Martha Webster,	-	-	" 1809	" 97
Mr. Samuel Kelly,	-	-	" 1810	" 92
Mr. John Atwood,	-	-	" 1812	" 97
Widow of Joshua Knight,	-	-	" 1812	" 91
Mr. Edmund Morse,	-	-	" 1816	" 90
Widow Knight,	-	-	" 1816	" 90
Widow Quimby,	-	-	" 1818	" 90
Widow Judith French,	-	-	" 1822	" 90
Capt. Wm. Marshall,	-	-	" 1822	" 96
Widow Dorothy Cotton,	-	-	" 1826	" 96
Miss Sarah Doller,	-	-	" 1828	" 90
Widow Sarah George,	-	-	" 1830	" 97
Widow of Joseph Webster,	-	-	" 1834	" 95
Dea. Job Kent,	-	-	" 1837	" 94
Widow Anne Knight,	-	-	" 1839	" 92
Daniel Little, Esq.,	-	-	" 1841	" 91

#### OCCUPATIONS.

"It would be expected, in a town so far from the sea-shore, and where the soil is so hard and rich, that the people would be chiefly farmers; and so they are, much to their credit, as good farmers as any in the State. And a farmer, when he is honest and benevolent, loving his God supremely and his neighbor as himself, is as much of a gentleman as any that can be found.

"There are some other things done, however, besides farming,"\* There are 3 blacksmith shops, 1 corn mill, 2 saw mills, 2 full stores of goods, besides 2 smaller ones; about 100 shoe-makers, 10 carpenters, 10 wagon-makers and wheelwrights, 2 hatter's shop, with 7 workmen; and from 30,000 to 40,000 palm leaf hats are made every year by the people in town.

#### REVOLUTIONARY AND OTHER STATISTICS.

The following statistics were compiled from records in the office of the Secretary of State. More time bestowed upon this search would have rendered the names and facts more complete. The compiler was unable to devote but little time to

\* "Sketch of Hampstead."

the search, and for most of the following he is indebted to the politeness and assistance of the Hon. Thomas P. Treadwell, Secretary of State.

In the "Muster Roll of Company of Troops, Abraham Parry, Captain, in Col. Nath'l Meserve's Regiment raised for the Crown Point Expedition" in 1756, is found the name of Thomas Cratford, jr., of Hampstead, private, enlisted May 1st, and continued in the service till Oct. 24th. Son of Thomas Cratford.

In Major John Goffe's Company, Meserve's Regiment, Jacob Sawyer, private, enlisted May 1; left Nov. 9th, 1756. Andrew Stevens, private, enlisted May 1; left Oct. 22, 1756.

In Samuel Watts' Company, Meserve's Regiment, the following persons were enrolled. They enlisted in May, 1756, and were discharged in December of the same year.

Seth Patte, Clerk, Jonathan Corliss, Sergeant, Samuel Worthen, James Philbrick, Simeon Stevens, Michael Johnson, Robert Johnson, Daniel Stephens or Stevens, Benjamin Heath, Osgood Eatton, Simeon Goodwin, David Hadley, Jos. Gove, Zebediah Heath, Josiah Heath, George Kezer, John Goodwin, Edmund Colby. a

On other rolls of companies in the Old French War, the towns from which the soldiers came are not given. The preceding list, does not, therefore, probably contain the names of all those soldiers, who went from the town of Hampstead.

The Census taken in 1775 discloses the fact, that at that time there were thirty-five soldiers in the Army of the Revolution, from the town of Hampstead.

A brief search in the office of the Secretary of State discovered the names of the following soldiers from Hampstead. Without doubt, the names of all the soldiers from this town might be found.

The names are given without any attention to priority or regularity of service. Jabez Brown, Thomas Mitchell, William Johnson, Samuel Davis, William Heath—one year in 1778–9.

John Davis, and James Heath, in Col. Mooney's Regiment.

Richard Heath, John Perry, Jonathan Jenness, Joseph Copp, Bradley Richards, Duncan Grant, Samuel Sargent, Enoch Hunt, Timothy Page, Robert Hastings, Micah Chapman, Page Towle.

"A Return of Soldiers in the N. H. Regiment, engaged by the town of Hampstead, and are in the service for and during the war.

Duncan Grant John Clark, William Heath, of Hampstead, and Samuel Davis of Goffstown. JOHN CALFE,

in behalf of the Selectmen of Hampstead.

Hampstead, June 5th, 1781.

Similar returns, made at other times, contain many of the foregoing names.

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CENSUS OF HAMPSTEAD.

1767,	-	-	644	1810,	-	-	738
1775,	-	-	768	1820,	-	-	751
1783,	-	-	759	1830,	;	-	913
1790,	-	-	724	1840,	-	-	890
1800,	-	-	790				

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TOPOGRAPHY.

20 Hampstead is situated in lat. ~~40°~~ 53', N., long, 5° 48' E. from Washington, containing 8350 acres of land, 400 of which are covered with water. Most of the town lies on the height of land between the Piscataqua and Merrimack rivers, and sends its waters S. W. from Wash pond and other parts, through Island Pond and Spiggot river, flowing into the Merrimack at Methuen, Mass. The Eastern part of the town forms one of the most western sources of Exeter river. Some little part of the water goes South, through Little river to Haverhill Village, and a portion to Amesbury Mills through Powow river from Angly Pond.

The town having been made up of fragments, is much out of square, having about thirty angles. It is bounded N. by Sandown and Danville; E. by the S. W. part of Kingston; S. E. by Plaistow; S. by Atkinson; and W. by Derry.

It is distant 30 miles South from Concord, N. H., 30 North East from Salem, Mass., 30 West from Portsmouth, 20 from the sea-shore at Hampton Beach, and 17 South East from Manchester.

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**A**

REV. HENRY TRUE'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

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HAMPSTEAD, MAY 13TH, 1752.

*To the Inhabitants of the town of Hampstead :*

GENTLEMEN AND FELLOW CHRISTAINS :—You having invited me to settle with you in the work of the Ministry, which I have taken into serious consideration, and earnestly sought to God for his Holy Spirit, to guide and direct me in such a great and important work, and in particular in respect to my tarrying with you ; having, likewise, considered of the proposals you have offered for my support, and your unanimity in an especial manner, I find myself inclined to tarry with you. I cheerfully accept your invitation, and comply with your proposals, promising to perform the duties on my part, as I shall be enabled ; depending upon God for divine help, and relying upon the promises of the exalted Redeemer ; being, as I trust, not insensible of my utter insufficiency for such an important work, as all my sufficiency and support must be from God. I would earnestly entreat your fervent prayers to God for me, that his grace may be mighty in me, and sufficient for me, that his strength may be perfected ; in my weakness, that he would give me divine wisdom, and skill, and succeed my endeavors to promote the kingdom and interest of Christ Jesus, that so I may not run in vain, neither labor in vain, and may at last give up my account to God, with joy and not with grief.

HENRY TRUE.

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**B**

REV. JOHN KELLY'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

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*To the Inhabitants of the town of Hampstead, in Town Meeting assembled :*

Whereas, you, the Church and Congregation in this place, being destitute of a Gospel Minister, have been pleased to make choice of me to that office, I do cheerfully and cordially accept of your invitation ; being confident of your firm and mutual fidelity, and so trust you will ever record me according to your present deliberate and unwavering affection, so long as the same reason shall subsist, and that you will receive me as one having authority to tell you the truth, without offence, but with all long suffering and patience ; trusting that you will strive to—

gether with me in your prayers to God, that I may obtain grace to be found faithful, and so be a means of your advancement in Faith.

From your affectionate servant in the Lord,

JOHN KELLY.

P. S. But, Gentlemen, as you are sensible that a fair and candid understanding between parties in making contracts, is the best preventive of disputes, and as there seems to be some obscurity in your second vote, inviting me to settle with you in the Ministry, I beg liberty to inform you, in a fair and candid manner, that I am led according to the nature of the thing, to understand, that by voting me the use and improvements of the Parsonage, you are determined to put into, and preserve the Parsonage building in comfortable repair, for the use of a family. But if, Gentlemen, you understand the other, or a different light, you will be so obliging, as to give me notice.

From your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN KELLY.

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The above letters of Mr. True and Mr. Kelly, are taken from the town records, being copied from the originals. It is evident, that the transcript was not correctly made.

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127. 1, 14















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